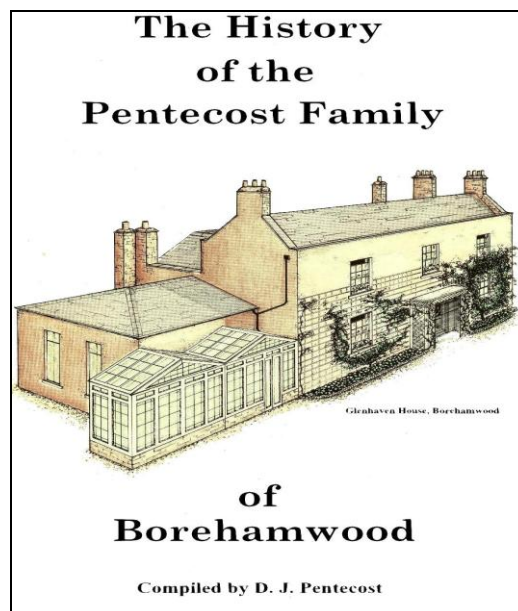


THE NALDRETT HISTORY OF THE PENTECOST FAMILY OF BOREHAMWOOD

**Comprising edited extracts from the book illustrated
below, printed in 1991.**



THE NALDRETT HISTORY OF THE PENTECOST FAMILY OF BOREHAMWOOD.

**This 2026 publication comprises extracts from the book which was printed in
1991 with ISBN 978-0-9518719-0-4 under the title
The History of the Pentecost Family of Borehamwood**

The 1991 book was issued only to family members and was not made public generally, because of privacy issues relating to living people.

These extracts now published, contain no privacy issues relating to living people, and their primary purpose is to show how the Pentecosts of Borehamwood descended from the Naldrett families of Sussex.

*Cover of the 1991 book: Glenhaven House, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.
Designed by Joanne Pentecost,
based on a drawing by Leonard Pentecost-Ingram.*

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These edited extracts were published by David Pentecost in 2026 as an e-book at archive.org.

FOREWORD

There follows a description of the structure of this book.

Part 1 deals with the direct Naldrett ancestors of Alfred Pentecost, (1860-1949), who was the first of the Pentecosts in our family. I have set out part 1 as far as possible as a chronological history; it is split into two sections, the first dealing with some of the fragmentary records of the family prior to the sixteenth century; the second section, starting on page 5, traces Alfred Pentecost's ancestors from about 1480 to his parents' deaths in the late nineteenth century, and whilst reading this section, you may like to refer to the family tree for this period of about 400 years, which appears on page 2.

Throughout the book, in order to avoid confusion, I have referred to people by their names at birth, rather than by any other names adopted later, such as after marriage. Some members of the family are or were commonly known by a different forename from that given at birth; I have used the forename at birth in the index and in the heading names in the main body of the book, but in the descriptive text I have used the forename by which they were or are normally known.

Part 2 starts on page 41. It deals with Alfred Pentecost, his wife and his children. Alfred was my great grandfather. The family tree on page 43, shows that his fourth child was Herbert Pentecost (1888-1950); Herbert was my paternal grandfather.

David Pentecost, 14th November 1991, and 26th February 2026

The following two paragraphs were written in 2026 for this special publication. They are more fully explained in the section about Edward Naldrett, on pages 39 and 40.

Alfred Pentecost's father's name was Edward Naldrett; that statement requires some explanation, which can be gleaned from the family tree chart on page 2, which shows the paternal line of descent from John Naldrett, born c.1480, down to Edward Naldrett, baptised in Pulborough, Sussex, in 1812, and from the continuing family tree on page 43.

Edward Naldrett (1812-1891) became a widower twice, before taking in as a housekeeper a widow named Harriett Pentecost, who was born Harriett Denyer, and had married William Pentecost in 1836. Harriett and Edward lived together as man and wife, and did not marry each other until 1863. Their son Alfred, born in 1860, had by law to take the surname by marriage of his mother Harriet Pentecost, although his father was Edward Naldrett. The Pentecosts who descended from Alfred Pentecost therefore had no Pentecost blood in them at all; they were not genetically related to William Pentecost. Genetically, they all came from the male Naldrett and female Denyer bloodlines.

PART 1

THE NALDRETT ANCESTORS OF ALFRED PENTECOST, 1860 – 1949

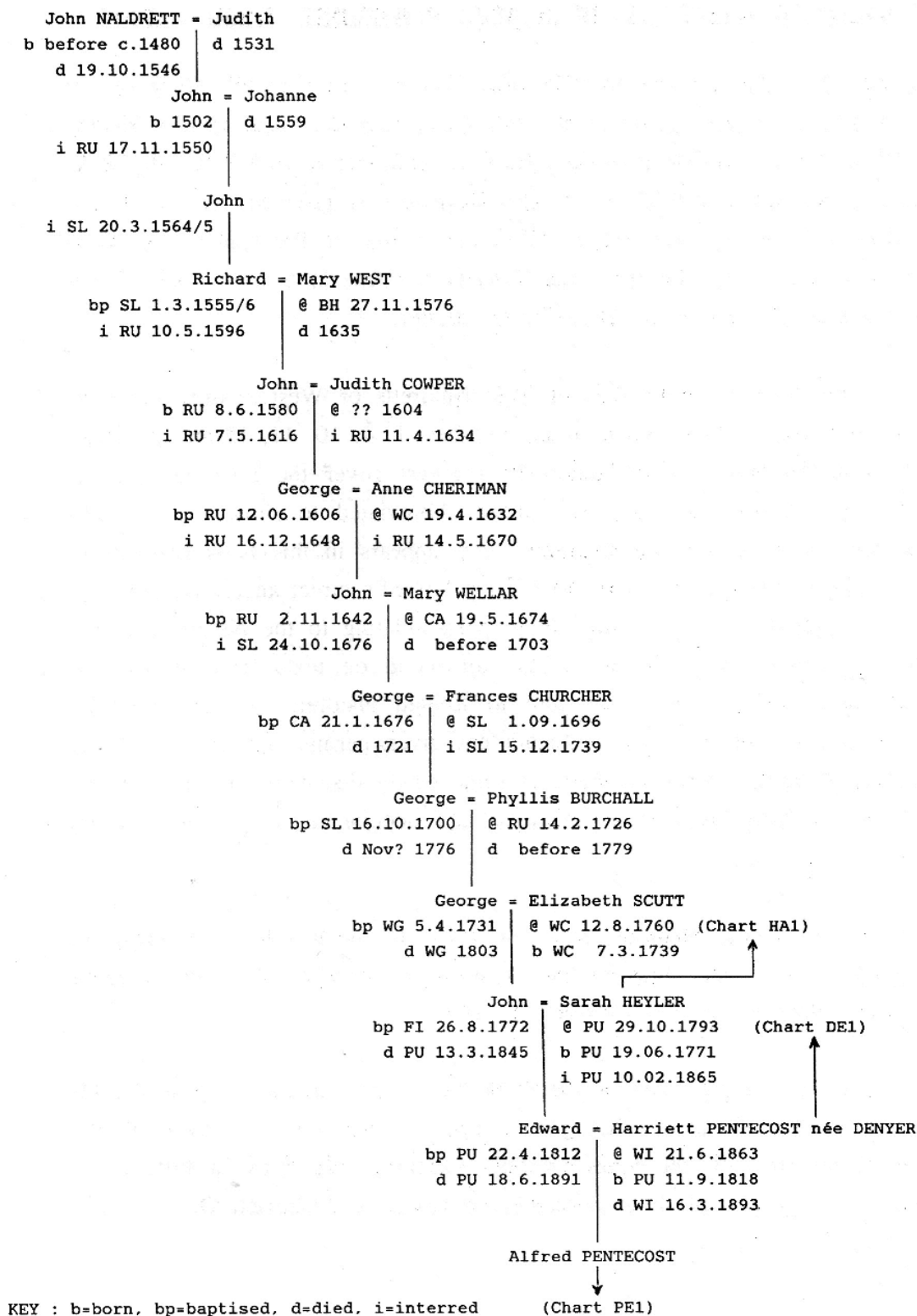
The full story of the Naldretts is set out in very great detail, and excellently described in *The Family History of The Naldretts of West Sussex*, (hereafter referred to as F.H.N.) by R. & K.E. Naldrett, published in 1985, to which the reader is referred; a copy of the work, (and of its accompanying volume, *The Family Tree of The Naldretts of West Sussex*), is deposited in the library of the Society of Genealogists, in London, and at the West Sussex County Record Office, in Chichester.

In the main part of *The Family Tree of The Naldretts of West Sussex*, there are charts numbered from 1 to 62; six of these, numbers 1, 4, 10, 11, 12 and 27 relate to the direct ancestors of Alfred Pentecost; the rest cover the remainder of the Naldrett family. These six charts have been abbreviated to show just Alfred's direct Naldrett ancestors, and the resulting chart appears in this book overleaf as Chart NA. The individuals on Chart NA, being Alfred's direct ancestors, are dealt with in the biographies below. These biographies relating to the Naldretts consist mostly of text taken directly from F.H.N., or based on texts from within that work, and the author owes a great debt to Ronald Naldrett and his late wife Kathleen for this part of the book; (Ronald has given permission for the extracts to be reproduced here); however, there is some newly discovered material in the form of wills, extracts from parish records, and documents relating to property occupied by the Naldretts.

Since there are so many Naldretts with the same forename, they are identified and distinguished from each other by the inclusion of the year of death following the name, where there would otherwise be confusion.

In order to present this first part of the book as a story, as far as possible, the Naldretts are dealt with in chronological order. Notes on the wives of the Naldrett men, where known, appear with the notes on their husbands.

THE NALDRETT'S OF WEST SUSSEX, SHOWING ALFRED PENTECOST'S ANCESTORS



BH = Billingshurst PU = Pulborough WC = West Chiltington
CA = Capel RU = Rudgwick WI = Wiggonholt
FI = Fittleworth SL = Slinfold WG = Wisborough Green

CHART NA

THE NALDRETT PRIOR TO THE 16TH CENTURY

There are very few families who are able to trace their ancestry back before about the year 1500, for it was not until 1538 that written records had to be kept by law, in the form of lists of baptisms, marriages and deaths, in parish registers.

Before 1538, a few families are able to trace ancestors, if they came from a family which laid claim to 'Coats of Arms', and whose claims were investigated by Henry VIII's Heralds, on one of their Visitations to various parts of the country.

A Naldrett family is mentioned in such a claim by the Michelborne family of Cuckfield, Sussex, some of whose ancestors were Naldretts. The Michelborne tree shows a line of nine Naldrett ancestors, going back to one Richard Naldrett in the late 13th century. This particular Naldrett line ended in the mid 15th century, although other Naldretts may have survived, not shown on the Michelborne tree.

There is no proof of any link of our family to the Cuckfield line, and so all that we can conclude is that possibly the branch in question was related to our Naldretts. Although Cuckfield is about twenty miles from the Rudgwick area, where we know that our ancestors were based, one of them, John Naldrett who was buried in Slinfold, near Rudgwick in 1565, actually died in Cuckfield; perhaps he was visiting relatives there at the time of his death. We are certainly much more closely related to the Naldretts of the Rudgwick area itself, fragmentary records of whom remain before the year 1500, but not in any form which enables us to connect them into a family tree.

Before we leave the subject of coats of arms, some Naldretts themselves were apparently granted arms, by Elizabeth the First, for in 'The Castles, Mansions & Manors of Western Sussex', written in 1879 by Elwes & Robinson, appears the following:

'Colonel St John has in his possession a coat of arms - Gules, on a chevron engrailed three lozenges of the field between three griffins' heads erased argent; crest a griffin sejeant argent - with the following interesting account:

"John de Aldrett descended from Lyons in France - Chaplain to John Ashburnham, Sheriff of Sussex in the 20th of Richard the 2nd (1397/98) descended John de Aldrette - yeoman of the Wardrobe of Queen Elizabeth; this arms confirmed to him 27th of that Queen's reigne, 1585" '

These arms were said to hang over the doorway of Slinfold Lodge, the home of Lieut-Colonel Edward St John, a descendant of the Piggotts, who in their turn had inherited the Naldrett Estates in 1793, on the death of one Ann Riggs, to whom they were related, although the Piggotts were not related by blood to the Naldretts in any way. (More about how Ann Riggs came to inherit the Naldrett fortunes follows on page 33).

The identities of the two Johns mentioned above have not been determined, but it is clear that at least the Elizabethan one had connections with the Rudgwick/Slinfold family, because the arms were used by them from that time on; the Elizabethan John may have been the eldest son of Henry Naldrett, the brother of John Naldrett (d 1565), of whom more appears on page 10.



Rudgwick Church, West Sussex, where many Naldretts were baptised, married and buried

We now turn to the story of the Naldretts of the Rudgwick area, prior to the introduction of parish registers in 1538, about whom there are odd scraps of information which have survived. The earliest is an unverifiable (the reference having been lost) mention of one Philip Naldrett holding land at Sparr Manor in Wisborough Green in 1150. The earliest provable reference is in the Assize Rolls of 1279, where there is a mention of an 'atten Alrette' in connection with a house at Rudgwick. 'Atten Alrette' is a variant of the Anglo-Saxon form 'atten Aldrette' which means 'dweller by the alder clump'; in time the '-n' in the prefix 'atten' became detached and joined on to the following word, when the latter began with a vowel. (This process happened also with the names Noakes and Nash; 'atten' still remains today in names such as Attenborough).

Four Naldretts and one Naldred are listed in the 1296 Subsidy Rolls, which were lists of people liable to pay specially levied taxes, often for financing the constant wars. In 1301 two atte Naldrettes were tenants of the Fitzalans of Arundel Castle, and paid rent for their land in Rudgwick and Wisborough Green.

A further record in 1305 states that Robert atte Nalrette gave William atte Nalrette a life interest in a house, 38 acres of land at Rudgwick and Billingshurst, in return for a peppercorn rent of 'a rose at the Nativity of St John the Baptist'.

And so the records continue, with Naldrett references, often relating to the paying of rent for land in Rudgwick, in 1313, 1339, 1350, 1352, 1362, 1380, 1400, 1403, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1447, 1463, 1474, 1505, 1509 and 1516. (The details of all these records are set out in full in F.H.N.).

THE NALDRETTs FROM THE 16TH CENTURY ONWARDS

We are now at the time of the start of the keeping of parish records, and from this point onwards, these records, together with other documents such as wills, have enabled the family tree of the Naldretts to be traced right down to the present day.

There now follows a chronological history of the Naldretts from John Naldrett who died in 1546, who was a great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather of Alfred Pentecost (1860-1949), down to Alfred's father, Edward Naldrett, who died in 1891. Notes on the wives of the Naldrett men, appear with the notes on their husbands.

NALDRETT, John (d 1546; Chart NA)

A yeoman of Rudgwick. His date of birth is not known, but could not reasonably have been much later than about 1480, for his elder son John was born in 1502. He married Judith, who died in 1531.

John and Judith had two sons, both named John, which was a not uncommon practice, for infant deaths were frequent, and there was a desire to perpetuate the father's name.

It seems that in 1513, John rented land in Slinfold from the Hussey family, for there is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, a document dated 1513 (MS Ch. Sussex a.4. No 309) being:

'A rentall of suche landes as ar conteyned wyth in thys decre whych ys brigett Husseys joynter'.

This document lists among other property:

'Slynfold - Item a messuage and a platt of londe callyd Aylowes dowers and townhouse in the occupation of John Naldred and in value by the yere xij^{li}.'

John (d 1546) is named as 'soull executor' in the will of one Henry Berkeley of Petworth, which was dated 14th September 1516. John was charged with distributing money to the ten priests at the funeral and further sums 'in almys to por men and women'. Five priests were also to be paid 18 marks (a mark was 13s 4d, two-thirds of a pound) to say mass and pray for the soul of the deceased for a further two years in the church at Petworth. Henry also left a house (believed to be in West Street, Petworth) 'that Rychard Gobull dwellyth in' to the church for a yearly obit (memorial service) costing half a mark, the residue of the rent being bestowed for the repairs to the house.

After John's wife Judith's death in 1531, he married Eleanor, Henry Berkeley's daughter and heir, but we have no record of the date of the wedding.

The year 1522 saw a renewal of the war with France, and in 1524-25 Henry VIII's treasurer, Thomas Wolsey, was busy collecting more Subsidy Taxes at 6d in the pound. John Naldrett was assessed at £20 for possessions at 'Howeke' and Dunhurst (Wisborough Green) and would therefore have paid ten shillings. He is also mentioned in Sussex Chantry Records of 1535 as renting certain land in Rudgwick for thirteen shillings.

John's second wife Eleanor died, and was buried at Rudgwick on 12th October 1546. Five days later, on 17th October, John's younger son John made his will, and died within hours of so doing, probably on the 18th October. John (the father) died on 19th October. He was the subject of a Post Mortem Inquest held at Petworth on 24th August 1547. In the record of the Inquest, it not only gives the date of his death as 19th October 1546, but states that he outlived his wife and younger son, and that his son and heir was 'John Naldrat Senior', 'age 44 and more'. (This is how we know that the elder son was born about 1502). The Inquest record lists John's lands as 'Naldrats in Ruggeswyk' and lands in Billingshurst, Wisborough Green, Kirdford, Petworth and Horsham.

At a later date, John's will was said to be in the Escheator's Return; the Escheator was the county's royal officer, whose duty it was after the death of a tenant, to empanel a jury to ascertain the land held by the late tenant, the rents or services by which held, and the name and age of the heir.

NALDRETT, John (1502 - 1550; Chart NA)

The elder son of John (d 1546) and Judith. Born about 1502. A yeoman.

He was living at Slinfold at the time of his father's death. His wife's name was Johanne, (Joan), and they had two sons, John (inevitably!) and Henry. (John and Henry were beneficiaries in the will of their father's brother John's will:

"... Also I give and bequeath to the ij [2] Sones of John Noldrat [his elder brother] of Slynfolde John and henry Ether of them an ewe [ewe]...". [The full will is reproduced in F.H.N.].

After his father's affairs were settled in 1547, the elder son John took over at Rudgwick. Unfortunately he did not live many years to enjoy his inheritance: he was buried there on 17th November 1550. He had made his will on 1st November, and it now appears in full below, continuing on page 8; opposite on page 7, is a reproduction of part of a copy of the start of the original will.

'In the name of god Amen in ye year of our lord god mⁱ v^el [1550] ye First daye of November I Jhon Naldrat of Rudgweke being sicke in body & hole in mynd & in perfett Remembrance thankes be unto god make this my last will & testament in manner & forme folowing Firste I bequeth my soulle to Almyghtie god to our lady saint marie & to All ye holly companye in heaven & my bodye to be buried in ye churchyard of Rudgweke

Item *I bequeth unto Jone my wif All my lands lyeing & being within the contie of Surrie by what namesoever they be callyed untill henrye my sone com to ye age of xxj [21] yeres and then it is my will y't [that] all ye aforsaid lands remayne unto ye said henry & to ye heys of his body lawfully begotten for ever and for eache of heyres of his body lawfully begotten then to Jhon my sone & to ye heys of his for ever*

Item *I geve unto ye aforsaid hary my sone xxⁱ [£20] to be delyvered unto him when he shall com to ye age of xxj [21] yers and yfe he dye afore ye age aforsaid Then hit is my will y't vⁱ [£5] be distributed to ye children of Thomas hil ye elder and vⁱ to ye children of Jon my sone and vⁱ unto ye pore people*

Item I bequeth unto Johane my wife my mansion or dwelling house with all ye lands therunto belongyng lyeing & being within ye parishe of Rudgweke for terme of her lyfe and then to remayne to John my Sone and to ye heyres of him for ever

Item I will that ye farme of pensfold shall Remayne unto my sayd mansion house during ye lease of hitt The residue of all my lands unbequethed I give unto Jhon my sone and to his heyres for ever

Item I will y't Jhon my sone shall have my farme of forde house [Wanford Mill] with all ye lands yer' [there] unto belonging during ye lyf of ye afore sayd Johane my wife yf ye lease do so long last & then to remayne to my sone hary

Item I geve unto every one of my godchildren xijd [12d]

Item I bequeth unto ye pouvre people of Rudgweke xxs [20s]

Item I geve unto ye pouvre people of Slynfold xs [10s]

Item I geve unto Thomas hill my godson vjs viijd [6s 8d]

Item I geve unto Richard latchsmith xls [40s]

Item I geve unto Robert agores vjs viijd

Item I bequeth unto Elisabeth Stnying vs [5s]

Item I bequeth unto Margaret hill vs

Item I geve to Richard hiller vs

Item I geve unto Sr William terrer [Sir William Tyrell] vjs viijd

Item I bequeth unto Thomas hills children xxs to be dytributed by even porsions

Item I bequeth unto ye churche of Rudgweke towarde ye reparacions vjs viijd whereof ye aforsayd churche doth owe unto me iijs iijd [3s 3d]

Item it is my will y't yer' [that there] remaynes within my mansione house in ye name of Wandesfde [Wanford] towe tabells of bettche [beech] ij [2] joyned bedsteddle iij [3] greate coffers ij great ione covornes [iron covers?] A great spitt & A brasyne lavor [brass washing bowl or bath] The Residew of all my goods I geve unto Johane my wife whom I make my souldes executrix to see this my last will well & truly performed

Item I will that all suche reconyng & former bargaynes as is betewene my sone Jhon & me shall never be spokene of nor leyd to his charge furthermor I make oversears here of Thomas hill & Robert wynesone and eyther of them to have for ther paynestaking xxs all coste & charge borne

Witness heroff Sr William tirrer Thomas beldame Richard Irlonde'

From this it is clear that John was a man of considerable possessions. To put things another way, his widow Joan had the income from the lands in Surrey until her younger son Henry came of age. She also held Naldrett and Pensfold Farms for life, after which they would belong to her elder son John.

Probate was granted on 30th April 1551. It is fascinating to think of the possessions which were considered special household treasures and, although from a distance of 440 years the various minor bequests may seem rather niggardly, they were quite generous for the time. Nevertheless, John evidently did not feel inclined to give more to the church than he needed to - one wonders how much repair was possible for the balance of 3s 5d!

John's wife Johanne died in 1559.



Wanford Mill, on the River Arun, a short distance south of Bucks Green, near Rudgwick

Wanford Mill was for many years Naldrett property, although the last Naldrett actually to live there was John Naldrett, who died in 1616. Its name meant 'wain' (waggon), and 'ford'. The mill house lies in a picturesque setting, off Haven Road. It was for sale in 1980, described as 'believed to date from the 16th century, with the original mill believed to date from the late 13th century'. The original corn-bins were said to be in the roof of the mill house. The two water wheels were removed some time after the second world war. The river Arun flows underneath the mill house through two brick arches. There is also a large mill-pond, and about three acres of land. A turning near the lane leading down to the mill leads to Naldrett Farm and Naldrett House. Wanford Mill is currently owned by Mr and Mrs N Slocock, who have kindly given permission for the above photograph to be reproduced.

NALDRETT, John (d 1565; Chart NA)

We have no record of when John was baptised. Elder son of John (d 1550) and Johanne. By his father's will, he inherited the property at Wanford, Rudgwick, for the rest of his mother's life, i.e. until 1559, when the property passed to his younger brother Henry. In addition John had all his father's other lands, presumably those at Slinfold, Billingshurst, Warnham, Horsham, Kirdford, Wisborough Green and Petworth; and after his mother's death, Naldrett and Pensfold farms at Rudgwick; Pensfold farm is adjacent to Naldrett farm.

John lived at Rudgwick and had two wives. By his first wife, whose name we do not know, he had three sons and three daughters; the second child and first son was of course called John; the third child was Richard, baptised at Slinfold on 1st March 1555/6, from whom the Pentecosts are descended.

On 9th May 1561 John married his second wife, Alice, the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Burgh, or Borough, of Chiddingfold, Surrey. John is said to have died at Cuckfield in 1565; his will was dated 16th March 1564/5, and proved on 9th May 1565, Alice being his executrix. She then married Raffe or Ralph Cowper of Strood, who was a forebear of the poet William Cowper. Ralph Cowper also died, and Alice married her third husband, Roger Gratwicke.

Evidently the Slinfold property which John's grandfather rented from the Hussey family in 1513, continued in Naldrett occupation, for there is on record a Chancery suit brought by John Hussey in 1582 which stated that his father, since deceased, demised entailed lands etc., called 'Townehouse, Aylowes, Dowers & Blakers in Slynfold' to John Naldrett in 1559, for a term of twenty-one years, and that long before the expiry of the lease, John Naldrett died at Cuckfield in 1565, leaving Alice his executrix. When the widow, Alice, married Raffe Cowper and entered into the premises, they were put out of possession, but in 1572 they regained the property for seven more years. When Raffe died and Alice married Roger Gratwicke, John Hussey once more tried to regain possession. There were several suits at Common Law, but their outcome is not known. Alice had three sons and three daughters by her second husband Ralph Cowper; she died in 1613. John Naldrett was buried at Slinfold on 20th March 1564/5.

NALDRETT, Richard (1556 - 1596; Chart NA); **WEST, Mary** (Chart NA)

Third child and second son of John Naldrett (d 1565); mother's name unknown. Baptised at Slinfold, on 1st March 1556. A yeoman.

Richard's elder brother John, died young and without children, so his estate passed to Richard. Richard married Mary West, the daughter of Richard West of Billingshurst, on 27th November 1576. He and Mary had ten children, from 1580 to 1595, including three sets of twins, in each case a boy and a girl, all baptised at Rudgwick.

The first son's name both broke with tradition, and yet maintained tradition; he was not named after his father, but after his father's elder brother, John who had died; thus the senior name, John, was to be perpetuated after all.

Richard died at the age of 40, and was buried at Rudgwick on 10th May 1596.

His will dated four days before his death, is reproduced below.

In the name of God Amen the Sixth daie of Maye, Anno Domini One thousande Fyve hundreth nynetie and sixe, I Richard Naldrett of Ridgeweeke in the countie of Sussex yoman beinge sicke in Bodye but whole and perfecte of Remembrance, Thanks be unto Almightye god Doe ordeyne make and declare this my last will and Testament in manner and forme followinge

First I bequeathe my soule to Almightye god my Redeemer and Savvour, and mye Bodye to be buryed in the churchyard of Ridgeweeke aforesaide.

Item *I geve to the Mother Church of Chichester six pence.*

Item *I geve to the Parrishe Church of Ridgeweeke aforesaide Six shillings eight pence towards the reparacons thereof.*

Item *I geve to every of my godchildren Twelve pence.*

Item *I geve to Robert Streater my godsonne six shillings eight pence.*

Item *I geve to the poore people of the Parrishe of Ridgeweeke aforesaide Thirtene shillings foure pence to be distributed amongst them by the discrecon of my Executrix hereafter named.*

Item *I geve to Elynor my servante Sixe shillings eight pence. Also to Richarde Howarde my servante Three shillings foure pence.*

Item *I geve and bequeathe to my Sixe daughters, That is to saye, Johan, Dorothe, Elizabeth, Mary, Jane and Sara To every of them Fiftie pounds a peece To be paide unto them att the daies of their severall marriages or att their severall Ages of Twentye yeares which shall firste happen. And if it shall happen any of my saide Sixe daughters to dye before the porcon of her or them that shall so fortune to dye shall growe due unto her or them or before she or they shall be marryed as aforesaide Then my will and meaninge is That the saide porcon or porcons of her or them so dyeinge or not beinge marryed shal remayne and be to the Survyvors of them equally to be devyded.*

Item *I geve and bequeathe unto Phillip my sonne and to his heires forever All those my Lands and Tenements with their appurtenances whatsoever sett lyeinge and beinge in Fyttleworth, Petworth, and Egden in the saide countie of Sussex called or known by the severall names of Kings Landes, and Pursers Together with twoe Acres and a halfe of meadowe in Cockes Meade or Byworth Meade. Also I geve and bequeathe unto the said Phillip and to his heires forever One parcell of Lande with Appurtenances in Billingshurst in the said countie called or known by the name of the Wyldenn. But my will and meaninge is that Marye my Wife shall have and take the rents issues and proffitts of all the said Landes and Tenements before hereby, geven towarde the bringinge up of him the said Phillip untill he shall accomlishe and come to his full age of One and Twentie yeares. And also I geve unto the said Phillip my sonne Twentye Poundes of lawfull money of Englande.*

Item *I geve and bequeathe unto Richard Naldrett my sonne to his executors and Assignes All that my Lease intereste and terme of yeares which I have yet to come of and in all one that Tenemente or Messuage and Landes with*

the appurtenances called or knowne by the name of Hurste lande sett lyinge and beinge in the parrishe of Wiseborough greene in the countie aforesaide Together with all Leasses wrytinges and conveyances thereof to be made.

Item I geve and bequeathe unto Mary my saide Wiefe and unto John Eversed of Ockley in the countie of Surrey yoman and unto their heires forever All that one Messuage or Tenemente Barne and Lande with their appurtenances in Billingshurst aforesaide called or knowne by the name of the North Eaton to be equally devyded between the said Mary my Wiefe and the said John Eversed Provyded alwaies and my will and meaninge is notwithstandinge That yf all promises covenants and agreements made and agreed uppon before John Nye of Slynfold in the countie of Sussex aforesaide gentleman touchinge and concerninge the shiftinge and devydinge of the saide Landes called Eaton and other Landes late of Thomas Weste my Brother in Law deceased shalbe hereafter observed fulfilled and kepte And all payments debts and somes of money answered and paide in manner and forme as yt was agreed uppon before the said John Nye accordinge to the true meaninge of the saide agreement That then and from thenceforth this my guifte and bequeathe of the saide Tenement Landes and other the premisses called the North Eaton made unto the saide Marye and John Eversed shalbe utterlie voyde and of none effecte To all intente and purposes. And that then and from thenceforth, yt is my will intent and meaninge That all the saide Landes and Tenements called the North Eton shall wholie remaine unto the saide Marye my Wiefe and to her sisters, and to their heires forever to be equally devyded between them the saide Marye and her saide sisters as aforesaide, or to one of their porcons or parts. And my will ys that the saide Marye my Wiefe shall take her porcon of all suche landes as are to be devyded betwene she and her sisters by the agreame^t aforesaide. So that her part and porcon thereof be allowed unto her Better, then the parte and porcon of anye of her sisters by Twentie Pounds and upwards, and so allowed by my Overseers hereafter named or twoe of them. And whereas I have by this my Last will and Testam^t geven and bequeathed unto Phillipp Naldrett my sonne One parcell of Lande in Billingshurst aforesaide called the Wylden. In consideration whereof my will and meaning is that the saide Marye my wiefe shall repaye and allowe for that Threescore Poundes of lawfull money of Englande.

Item I will that my saide Executrix hereafter named shall receive and take upp the yearelie rente of Fourtene Poundes by the yeare of the saide Farme called Hurste Lande untill the saide Richarde my sonne shall accomlishe and come to the age of One and Twentie yeares Towards the bringinge up of hym the saide Richarde, and the rest of my Children, and towarde the performance of this my Laste will and Testam^t

Item I geve to John Naldrett my eldest sonne eight silver spoones and Two ioyned Bedsteddes standinge in the Lofte over the Hall and one Joyned Bedsteddle in the Parlor Lofte with my best featherbedd and all things to the same belonginge. One Joyned Cubboarde in the Parlor, a saltinge trowe [trough], a kneadinge trowe, two cobyrons, the best yron spitt, To remayne all as standarde of the house to suche my heires as my house and Landes in Rydgewecke shall discende unto

Item I geve and bequeathe unto Edwarde my sonne Fifty Poundes of lawfull money of England To be paide unto him the saide Edwarde when he shall accomlishe and come to his age of One and Twentie yeares. The residue of all my goodes cattells and chattells not hereby geven or bequeathed (my

debts and my Legacyes paid) I geve and bequeathe to the saide Marye my Wiefe whom I make sole Executrix of this my Last will and Testament. And shee to have the charge of the bringinge upp of my saide Children untill they shall accomplish and come to their severall ages of One and Twentie Yeares.

And also I will that Marye my Wiefe shall have the proffitts of all my houses, milles lands Tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances sett lyinge and being [in] Ridgeweeke, Kirdford Wisborough greene and Billingshurst, except all suche Landes Tenements and heredytaments as are hereby before geven or bequeathed for and towarde the bringinge upp of my saide Children and better performance of this my Laste will and Testam^t untill my said sonne John shall accomplishe the age of One and Twentie yeares At which tyme I will that my saide sonne John shall have all my saide Lands Tenements and heredytaments whatsoever with the appurtenances in Rydgeweke Kirdford Wisborough greene and Billingshurst, all suche Landes Tenements and heredytaments as are already before hereby geven and bequeathed alwaies excepted and foreprysed [mentioned beforehand]. Provyded alwaies and my Will is, that Marye my Wiefe shall paye everie yeare yearlie until John my sonne shall accomplishe the age of One and Twentie yeares unto my Overseers hereafter named and the Survvivor and Survvivors of them Tenne Poundes of lawfull money of England To be payde quarterlie towardes the mayntenance of the saide John my sonne to learnynge in the Grammar Schole Desyringe my saide Overseers to see the same performed. And also I will that my saide wife shall repayre keepe and maintayne well and sufficientlie from tyme to tyme all manner of reparacons of the foresaide houses landes, Tenements, Mill, Bayes, banckes and other reparacons belonginge to the premisses without doinge anie waste or spoyle otherwyse than shalbe necessarie and needfull. Provyded moreover, That yf yt shall happen the saide Marye my Wiefe to marry againe, That then I will that she before the date of her marriage shalbe bounde to my saide Overseers hereunder named and to the Survvivor or Survvivors of them in sufficient Bondes with Two sufficient suerties accordinge to the discrecon of my saide Overseers for the p'formance of this my Last will and Testamente. And I make Overseers to this my Last Will and Testament Edward Mychell of Ridgeweeke, John Nye of Slynfold, gentleman, John Lutman of Wisborough greene, and John Eversed of Ockley prayinge them to have especyall care of the premisses. And they to have for their paynes therein over and besides their Charges borne Fortye shillings a peece. In witness whereof to this my Last will and Testamente which I have caused to be wrytten and made to everye Lease thereof have sette my hande and seale the daie and yeare abovesaide.

Probate:

Proved at London before the venerable and distinguished man William Lewin, LLD., Master Keeper or commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 18 May 1596 by oath of John Theker, MP, procurator for Mary, widow and executrix named in said will to whom was committed the administration of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to well and faithfully administer etc. Sworn on the holy evangelist of God.

The final long paragraph of the will bequeaths the bulk of the property to Richard's eldest son John, on reaching the age of 21. This bequest was to give John considerable trouble, in that his mother was to re-marry, and she and her second husband attempted

to deprive John of his inheritance. Perhaps Richard was aware that this might happen, for he stipulated in the will, that its conditions were to be carried out, even if his wife were to re-marry.

A Post Mortem/Inquest was held on 3rd November 1596, 'the 38th year of Elizabeth', when an interesting account of his lands etc., was recorded:

'Messuage, water-mill [Wanford Mill] and parcels of land in Rugewick called Naldrette Landes held of John Carell, Knight, as of his lately dissolved chantry of Horsham, by rent of 13s worth 26s 8d.

Other parcels of land in Billingshurst called Biddlesham held of Thomas Stanley, gentleman of the manor of Poundes, 10s.

Parcel of land in Kirdford called Brookereadon held of Thomas Eversfeild, gentleman of the manor of Wephurst, 6s 8d.

Parcels of land in Kirdford called Realls and Spiars held of Thomas Serley [Shirley], Knight of the manor of Berriland 5s.

Parcel of land in Rugewick called Weyhurst held of Edward Goringe of the manor of Howick, 6s.

Parcel of land in Petworth and Egden [Egdean] called Pursers held of the Queen of the manor of Biworth in soccage [a feudal term denoting tenure of the land involving payment of rent or other service to the superior, in this case to the Crown] 6s.

Parcel of land in Billingshurst called Hewildon held of Francis Garton of the manor of Bassettes, 5s.

Messuage and parcel of land in Kirdford called Castronge held of Thomas Shirley Knight of the manor of Barkfold, 10s.

Parcel of land in Wisbrough Greene called Tibbyes held of the Queen of the manor of Drungewick in soccage [blank]

Messuage and lands in the parish of Wisbrough Greene in tenure of John Wade held of honor of Aquila by Knight's service 10s.

Messuage and lands in Billingshurst called Northeaton held of Thomas Palmer, Knight of the manor of Wiggonholt, 6s 8d.'

Further enquiries were later to be made into Richard's possessions. There appears to have been more than are listed above, which are all leased properties, either directly from the Crown, or from private individuals who by this time either owned them in their own right, or themselves leased from the Crown. However, Richard evidently owned the freeholds of other properties which he willed to his children.

Richard's wife Mary was left a widow with ten children, ranging from age 1 to age 15, and it is not surprising that she promptly re-married, to a Nicholas Challoner, at Edburton, in 1598; we do not know if she had more children. She died in 1635.

NALDRETT, John (1580 - 1616; Chart NA); **COWPER, Judith** (Chart NA)

First son of Richard Naldrett (d.1596) and Mary West. Born at Rudgwick on 8th June 1580.

John was a yeoman, and we have a record of his bringing a law suit against his step-father Nicholas Challoner and his mother Mary, when he was two weeks short of his twenty-first birthday; they were trying to deprive him of his inheritance. In volume 24 of the Sussex Archaeological Collection is an interesting paper entitled 'The Naldretts of Naldrett, Rudgwick', written by a Mr Samual Evershed (perhaps a descendant of the John Eversed, who was an overseer of Richard Naldrett's will) c.1872, who said that during a search at the Public Record Office in London, he found a Chancery Suit dated 24th May 1601, brought by 'John Naldrett of Wandford in Rudgeweeke, yeoman, then about 21 years of age'. The record was on three parchments:

He [John] complains that in the xxxvi'th [37th, although it was in fact the 38th] yeare of the Queenes majesty's Raigne that now is 1595, Richard Naldrett of Rudgeweeke his father died possessed of an entailed house in Rudgeweeke called Wandford, with divers lands, tenements, and hereditaments belonging to that estate; and also other lands, tenements and hereditaments, meadows, pastures, and woods, in the parishes of Kirdeforde, Wisborough-green e, Billingshurst, ffitleworth, Petworth, and Egden, That he left to one of his younger sons Phillip, some of the property in ffitleworth, Petworthe, and Egden; and to one other of his younger sons, Richard, property in Wisboroughe-greene; that he left to Marye his wief the proffite of all his other property, till John the elder son came of age; and appointed John Eversedd, of Ockley, in the Countie of Surrey, yeoman, to have the Custodie of all his deeds and writings, till John Naldrett the complainant was of age, and that then they were to be given up to him. That he also left legacies to divers persons, and gave the residue to his wife, whom he made his Sole Executrix.

Young John ... thinks of his father, that he being a man altogether unlearned, either did not knowe of what estate he was seized, or ells he was past memorie when the Will was made. After his death Marye took possession of everthing. And shortlie after, the said marye married and took to husbände one Nicholas Challenor gent and then Nicholas likewise took possession. And then John Eversedd and Nicholas and Marye his wief finding the estate was entailed, and that therefore Marye could not take the proffits of the landes, practiced and confederated to withhold from John his deeds &c &c under pretence that if he got possession he would seek to frustrate the Will as to Phillip and Richard, although he is now of age. And ffurther that about the eight yeare of her majesty's Raigne, 1566, John Naldrett of Rudgeweeke ffather of Richard, and grandfather of John the complainant, held in fee taile the said messuage called wandefords and of all the other lands &c and about the same Tirte [third?] yeare of her majesty's raigne 1561 married one Alice Borrowe, and died about the vi'th yeare of her majesty's Raigne, having issue the said Richard; said Richard took possession as eldest son next heire, and she the said Alyce having the third parte of all the premisses ... [here the parchment was rotten away when in the dungeons of the Tower of London] ... Richard and his mother Alice - considering it more Convenient for Richard having the other two parts of the p'misses to have also the third part belonging to Alice - agreed that Richard should have it, and paye a yearlie rent of xvi^{li} [£16]. Then after the death of Richard, his mother surviving, she Alyce, agreed with Marye and Nicholas Challenor

that they should have the three thirds as before, making over her third to them for threescore yeares, if she should so long live, for the said xvi^{li} by the yeare - though it was worth xx^{li} [£20] - and this agreement was of course an additional hindrance to the complainant's obtaining possession of the property. And because he cannot get possession, one ... Geffe of London, gent, late claymed the lands in Kyrdforde to be copihold of the manor of drungewecke in Sussex, and supposeth that the same is forfeited to him the said ... Geffe, being Lorde of the Same mannor and hath seized the same, whereas in truthe the same is John the petitioners ffreehold, and never was holden by copy of court rolle as said ... Geffe p'tendeth; the petitioner is like to be disinherited, because he cannot get the title deeds from John Eversedd, and he begs that John Eversedd, Nicholas Challenor, and Mary Challenor, may be served with the Queenes majesty's most gracious writt of Subpena, to appear before his Lordship, and to abide such order as to his hono'r shall seem convenient.

On a second parchment is the reply of Nicholas Chaloner and Mary his wife.

In it they say that the said Richard deceased had lands, and Tenem'ts called Kynges Lands, and pursers in ffitleworth, petworth and Egden; and also two acres and a half of meadow in Easte meade, or byworth meade, and also one parcell of land called welden in billingshurst; and left these in his will to Phillipp; but that Marey his wyffe was to resceyve the rents &c untill Phillipp was of age toward the brynginge up of the sayde Phillipp. and the sayde John [this is an obvious error and should read 'Richard'] Naldrett beinge also possessed ffor terme of Ten Thousande yeares of one messuage, And certen Lands called hursh in Wisbroughe greene, did by his will give the same lease and lands &c called hurshe unto Richard one other of his sonnes, and ffurther appoynted that sayde marey Should have xiiij pounds [£14] Rente by the yeare out of the sayde Lands called hursh ffor the bringinge up of Richard, of his other children, &c &c and they say that John the complainant is not yet at the age of one and Twentye yeares.

They [Mary and Nicholas] declare that they know nothing about any estate in tayle, and they confess that the sayde eversed has in custody certen deedes &c but whether they concerne the sayde lands &c they knowe not but they wilbe contented ffor to delyver the same to whosoever the same shall appteyne and pray that the estate may be preserved &c &c, and they pray to be dismissed out of this most honorable Courte with there Reasonable Costs and Charges in this behalfe wrongfully susstained.

The third and last parchment contains the Replicacon of John Naldrett Complainant to the above answer.

In it he says in effect that their answer is no answer at all, that he is ready to prove all that he has sett forth, and that his father's estate was certainly in tayle, And that certain proffite was given to the said marye that the complainant should be maintained at grammar schoole - Ten pounds yerly - untill his full age of xxi yeeres, and that Mary shold keepe the messuage and other pr'misses in repair, and that if she shold be disposed to marry that then before her marriage she shold become bounden with two sureties for p'formance of the said will. All w'ch condicons the said def'ts have not p'formed.

And complainant further replyeth that said Mary did p'mise to assigne to com't' at his full age the said demise of the dower of the said Alyce Gratwicke, and the interest thereof as hath been verye truly sett forthe. All w'ch matters this replyant is ready to prove and praieth as in his bill he hath prayed.'

Although the Court's decision is not known, it is apparent from later records that John won his case and duly received his inheritance.

Three years after bringing the Chancery Suit against his step-father and his mother, John married Judith Cowper of Strood, the youngest daughter of Alice Naldrett and her second husband Ralph Cowper. John and Judith were not of course blood-relatives, he being descended from his grandfather John and his first wife, and Alice Naldrett neé Borough having been the elder John's second wife.

In 1610/11 John was an overseer to his mother-in-law's will, which was proved in June 1613. He and Judith had six children, all baptised at Rudgwick: the inevitable John (1604), George (1606), Susannah (1607), Edward (1608/9), Richard (1612) and Ralph in 1614. It is from the second son, George that the Pentecosts are descended.

There is mention of John and his son George (then only eight), who were parties in a deed dated 1614. Next we hear of John (and his eldest son John) acting as executors to one Richard Otway of Rudgwick, making in March 1614/15 an inventory of Richard Otway's possessions, including items of iron and coal at his foundry in Dedisham.

John died shortly before his 36th birthday, the entry in the Rudgwick parish register for 7th May 1616 reading: 'John Naldrett of Myll, hoseholder'. He was the last heir to live at Wanford Mill, and left behind Judith a young widow with their six children, whose ages ranged from one to eleven. Unusually for the times, she did not re-marry.

Unfortunately we do not have a copy of John's will, but he probably arranged for his widow Judith to receive considerable rents for her own maintenance and the upbringing of the family, and it is clear from her own will, which is set out later, that for the times, she was quite wealthy.

The reader will remember that the Naldretts had had dealings for many years with the Hussey family. John, (d 1546) had rented land in Slinfold from them in the very early 1500s, and so had his grandson John (d 1565); his great-great grandson, our present John (d 1616), had also it seems done likewise, for we find that in 1631, his widow Judith was co-signatory with Ralph Cowper (quite possibly her brother), to an indenture dated 29th April, the other parties being George and Anthony Hussey, grandsons of John Hussey (probably the same John Hussey with whom John Naldrett (d 1565) had had dealings). The indenture is deposited in the Bodleian Library, in Oxford, under reference MS. Ch Sussex a4/259.

By this indenture, two provisions were made. The first was that Judith and Ralph were paid £240 in return for assigning the remaining four years of a 60-year lease of at least sixteen properties, to Anthony Hussey; these properties were in Slinfold and Warnham, and included Lower Bradbridge Farm, which is mentioned in Judith's will. The second provision was that a lease made in March 1623 by Judith and Ralph, and whereby they each received a yearly rent of £5.10s. in respect of a mill, would continue in force, but the rent would be paid to Anthony Hussey.

The indenture in question is a classic piece of legal jargon, whereby the lawyer involved probably charged an exorbitant fee for writing in the most complex and repetitive language imaginable and no doubt in as lengthy a way as he could conceive, what is summarised above in a few lines. I reproduce it below so that the interested reader may marvel at it; those who do not wish to have their brains befuddled may skip the following section, and resume reading on page 20.

*This Indenture mad the nyne and twentieth day of Aprill in the Seaventh yere of the raigne of o[ur] sovaighe Lord Charles by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland kinge defend[er] of the faith etc. Betweene Ralphe Cowper of Slinfold in the County of Sussex esq. executor of the last will & testamt of Edward Cowper esq. deceased and Judith Naldrett of Rudgwicke in the said Countie of Sussex widdowe executrix of the last will & testamt of John Naldrett of Rudgwicke afforesaid gent. deceased of the one p[ar]te And Georg Hussey of Boughton Munchelsey in the County of Kent esq. and Anthony Hussey of Ulcombe in the Countie of Kent gent. of the other pte **Whereas** John Hussey esq. Grandefather of the said George and Anthony Hussey did by his Indenture of demise bearinge date the twelveth day of June in the Seaventen[n]th yere of the raigne of o late sovaighe Lady Queene Elizabeth of famous memorie demise & to farme let unto Edmonde Dearinge gent. All that Capitall Messuage wth all other houses stables Stawles Stulles barnes & other buildinges thereunto belonginge and all that the water Mill and water Courses ponndes and fishinges wth all other thinges to the said mill belonginge And all those the landes meadowes pastures leasowes woodes Woodgroundes & hereditam[ents] whatsoev[er] wth all & singuler there appurten[n]ce scituate lyeinge & beinge wthin the p[ar]ishe of Slinfolde & warnham and either of them in the said County of Sussex comonly called or knowne by the name of Bradbridges Hides Great Hides Clapper Hides Barne Croft, Mill Greene Chimney Croftes Connyberry Croftes Brooke Meadows Brodebridge feildes Lakehams feilde Westfeild Hearne grove feilde North landes feildes Millmeade Greenfeilde Rapkyns Highlandes or Mathewes & all other the landes tenemtes & hereditamtes of him the foresaid John Hussey and by whatsoev other name or names the same weare then called or knowne scituate lyeinge & beinge in the pishes of Slinfolde & warnham afforesaid and then or late then before in the tenure or occupacone of James Eede Phillip Mellershe Thomas Michell Robart Mathewe George Stringer and Roger Michell or of any of them To Have and to houlde to the said Edmonde Dearinge his executors or assignes from the Feast of the Annciacone of the blessed virgen Marie last past before the date of the said recited Indenture of demise unto the full ende & terme of Threescore yeres from thence next ensueinge & fully to be compleat & ended wth div[er]es other Covenntes & Condicones in the said recited Indenture of demise conteyned whereunto relatione beinge had more at large it doth & may appeare wch said estate interest & terme of yeres of him the said Edmonde Dearinge of in & to the said Capitall Messuage houses stables staules barnes & of in & to all & singuler other the said p[re]misses by the said recited Indenture of demise granted is by divers meane convayances & assignemtes or other lawfull meanes lawfully convayed and assured or otherwise come to them the said Ralph Cowper and Judith Naldrett or one of them **Nowe** this Indenture further witnesseth that they the said Ralph Cowper and Judith Naldrett for & in consideracone of the some of Twoo hundred & fortie poundes of good & lawfull mony of England to them in hand by the said George Hussey well & trulie paide before thensealinge & delivry of these p[re]sentes the receipt whereof they the said Ralph Cowper and Judith Naldrett doe hereby acknowledge & confesse & thereof & ev[er]y p[ar]te & pcell thereof doe fully frely & absolutelie exonate acquit release & discharge the said George Hussey & Anthony Hussey there heires*

executors administratores & assignes & evy of them by these p[rese]ntes
Have by the appointemt & directione of the said George Hussey granted
bargained sould assigned & set over & by theis p[rese]ntes doe grante
bargaine sell assigne & set over to the said Anthony Hussey his executors
administratores & assignes All that the said Capitall Messuage & all
those the said howses stables stales barnes watermill watercourses pondes
fishinges & all & singuler other the said pmisses before by the said
recited Indenture of demise menconed to be demised wth there and evy of
there appurtennce together with the said recited Indenture of lease & all
assignemts & other writtinges conv[ey]inge the saide pmisses and all the
estate right title interest claime inheritance & demand whatsoev of them
the said Ralphe Cowper & Judith Naldrett of in & to the said Capitall
Messuage & other the said pmisses & of in & to evy p[ar]te & pcell
thereof And all rentes services & other duties whatsoev reserved due or
payable upon whatsoev demise lease or estate made of the said pmisses of
or any pte or pcell in as large ample & benificiall mann[er] & forme to
all ententes constructiones & purposes whatsoev as they the [said] Raphe
Cowper & Judith Naldrett or either of them might or could have held
injoyed the same To have & to hould the said Capitall Messuage houses
Barnes stables & all & singuler other the said pmisses in & by the said
recited Indenture of Lease menconed to be demised & evy pte & pcell
thereof wth all & singuler there & evy of there appurtennce to the said
Anthony Hussey his executors administratoes & assignes from the daye of
the date hereof for & duringe all the rest & residewe of the said terme
of Threscore yeres in the said recited Indenture menconed more to come &
unexpired in as large s ample & benificiall manner & forme to all
intententes constructiones & purposes whatsoev as the said Ralph Cowper &
Judith Nalldrett or either of them may might or could have held or
enjoyed the same And the said Ralph Cowper & Judith Nalldrett for them
selves there executoes administrators & assignes doe Covennte p[ro]mise &
grante to & wth the said George Hussey his executes & assignes by these
psentes That the said Anthony Hussey his executors & assignes shall &
maye from tyme to tyme & at all tymes hereafter for & duringe all the
rest & residewe of the said terme yet to come & unexpired peaceablie &
quietlie have hould occupie possesse & inioye the said Capitall Messuage
& all & singuler other the said pmisses & evy pte & pcell thereof wth the
appurtennce wthout the let troble molestacone or disturbance of them the
said Ralph Cowper & Judith Nalldrett there executoes administrators or
assignes or of any other pson or psons whatsoev lawfullie claiminge by
from or und[er] them or either of them or by from or under the said
Edwarde Cowper & John Nalldrett there executoes administrators or
assignes or any of them And free & cleere & freelie & cleerelie exonated
acquitted & discharged of & from all & all mann[er] of former & other
bargaines sales guiftes grantes leases estates recognizances iudgemtes
execucones debtes to the kinges ma[jes]tie debtes upon recorde & of &
from all other charges titles troubles & incubrance whatsoev had made
committed or done by them the said Ralphe Cowper & Judith Nalldrett or
either of them or by any other pson or psons whatsoev lawfully clayminge
by from or under them or either of them or by from or und the said Edmond
Cowper & John Nalldrett there executoes administrators or assignes or any
of them One lease heretofore made of the said Mill by the said Ralphe
Cowper & Judith Nollldrett bearinge date the twentieth daye of marche in
the twentieth yere of the raigne of o late sovaigne Lord kinge James
ov[er] England etc. whereupon the yerelie rent of Five poundes tenn
shillinges to the said Ralphe Cowper and Five poundes tenn shillings to
the said Judith Nollldrett by the yere is reserved and shall continewe

1631.

Anthony Hussey

Item Whereas I have since the death of my sayd late husband received out of the rents yssues and proffitts of the lands Called Bradbridge in Slinfold the some of twoe hundred and Fifty pounds or thereabouts w'ch

belongeth to my sonne Richard Naldrett by vertue of the last will and Testament of my sayd husband and of w'ch I am to make to him the sayd Richard an accompte and payment I doe therefore accordingly by this my last will and Testament in full lieu and recompence satisfaccon and payment to bee made of and for the same rents yssues and proffitts as also of my Motherlike love and affecccon to him my sayd sonne Richard give unto him all that messuage or Tenement and ferme lands tenements and hereditaments Contayning by estimacon Fifty acres in Kirdford in the sayd County of Sussex now or late in the tenure of Margaret Boxall widdow Called Cothstronge or by whatsoever other names And also all those lands in Kirdford aforesayd conteyning by estimacon Twenty acres likewise in the Tenure of the sayd Margaret called Brokereden als Brokenden or by whatsoever other names all w'ch I late purchased to mee and to myne heires of George Naldrett my eldest Sonne for four hundred and Twenty pounds w'ch they are well worth to have and to hold all and every the sayd messuage or Tenement and lands with their appurtenances to him the sayd Richard and to the heires of his body begotten and for want of sure yssues then doe I will that the same shall remayne to my four other children (that is to say) George Edward Ralph and Susan and their heires amongst them equally to bee devided Also I give to him my sayd sonne Richard Fifty pounds of lawfull money to bee payd to him within one moneth next after my decease And my best flock bed a flock Boulster a feather boulder the Bedsteddle wherein hee lyes and the other furniture to the seyde bed belonging and three payre of sheetes whereof one payre to bee of the better sort and one of my great kettles and six pewter platters and foure new silver spoones

Item I give to my sonne Ralph Naldret Twoe hundred pounds of lawfull money to bee payd to him within one moneth next after my decease yf I shall not in my lifetyme have provided for him lands or other reall estate to that value More I give to him the sayd Ralph One feather bed one feather Boulster and the bedsted in the little Chamber over the buttery and all things thereto belonging and three payre of sheetes whereof one payre to bee of the better sort and the least of my three great kettles and six pewter platters and the other of my foure new silver spoones and my silver beaker

Item I give to my eldest sonne George Naldrett Foure score pounds remayning in his hands of myne uppon his bond wch moneys I have given him not as a legacy but as a token of myne affectionate love to him And my will and desire that hee should be loving kinde and helpfull to his brethren and sister after my decease as I hope hee wilbee

Item I give to the three Children of my sayd sonne George (that is to say) John Joane and George Tenn pounds a peece with moneys hee sayd George hath also in his hands of myne by severall specialtyes or notes with mee remayning may appeare More I give to my sayd Grandchild John six old silver spoones

Item I give to my late servant and Goddaughter Judith now the wife of Richard Lode Forty shillings to bee payd to her within a moneth next after my decease

Item I give to every other of my Godchildren requiring the same Five shillings The residue of all my goods Chattells debts Creditts ready

money and houshold stufte not before bequeathed my debts and legacies being payd my funerall discharged and this my last will and Testament in all things well and truly performed I give and bequeathe to my daughter Susan Naldret whom I make the sole Executor of this my last will and Testament and I doe nominate and appoynt my trusty and welbeloved frends George Churchar of Slinfold and Richard Stringer of Petworth to bee Overseers of the same my sayd last will and Testament desiring them as my speciall trust is in them that they wilbee aiding and assisting as well to my sayd Executor in the performance and execucon of this my last will as also to the rest of my sayd Children yf they shall require the same And I give to either of them for their paynes to bee taken therein Tenn pounds over and besides their reasonable Costs and expenses in that behalf And in Testimoney that this is my very last will and Testament Written on three sheetes of paper I have hereto Sett my seale and to every sheete subscribed my name Judith Nalldrett These being witnesses George Churchar John Churchar George Milles'

Probate was granted to Susan Naldrett on 10th July 1634. We have no way of knowing how much her portion was worth after all the bequests and expenses had been paid. The cost of the funeral would have been higher than usual: about 20s extra having to be paid for the burial in the chancel of the church. (It has not been possible to check whether a memorial tablet to Judith survives on the floor of the chancel, for it is covered with a fitted carpet; the current vicar has undertaken to look, should there be any need to raise the carpet during his incumbency). On 18th February 1635/6 Susan married at Rudgwick, William Threele who settled on her thirteen properties in Wisborough Green including lands called Stones Garden containing three acres. They had a daughter, Susan Threele who died young, but there may have been other children. The oldest monument in Wisborough Green church is a black marble stone to Sir William Threele, 1667.

NALDRETT, George (1606 - 1648; Chart NA); **CHERIMAN, Anne** (Chart NA)

Second son of John Naldrett (d 1616) and Judith Cowper, and father of John (d 1676). Baptised at Rudgwick on 12th June 1606.

George's elder brother John, two years his senior, had inherited property, including Violets Farm at Slinfold, on the death of his father in May 1616, at which time he was only 12 years old. Sadly, young John was not to live and enjoy 'Violets', nor any of his father's properties, because he died on 8th August 1617.

The record of John's inquest held on 5th November 1617 states that his heir was his brother George, and gives John's property as 'a messuage and lands in Slinfold called Violettts.' George being a minor, was made a Ward in Chancery until 1629, when he was able to take possession of his inheritance.

On 4th November 1624, George married Elizabeth Young, by faculty, i.e. having had to obtain special permission from the Court, because he was then only 18 years old. Elizabeth had four children up to 1631, when she died giving birth to her last child; the child also died. So George at the age of 25 was left a widower with three young children to bring up.



Naldretts Farm, West Chiltington came into the family when its widowed owner Anne Cheriman married George Naldrett in 1632, and it was on some date well after 1632 that it appears to have acquired its present name. The property was at various times known by several names. In 1605 it was called Hutttyd Warlinges, and had previously been known as Tanners and later Searles, Anne Cheriman's mother's maiden name having probably been Searle. The predominant name appears to have been Warlinges, with variations in spelling, although it was also known as Placelands. Anne Cheriman's husband George Naldrett referred to it in his will in 1646 as "Place lands, alias Wandlings" when he left it to his son John. As late as 1800, the map and schedule of the Abergavenny Manor of West Chiltington shows John Jupp having the freehold of Warlings with 11 acres, in the same position where Naldrett Farm now lies; in 1702 Jane Naldrett, a great granddaughter of John Naldrett (d 1616), had married a John Jupp, and possibly at that time it had belonged to her. In 1881, in the Abergavenny Manor Court Rolls, are mentioned "lands and tenements with appurtenances theretofor called Placelands, otherwise Searles or Wantlings and since Naldretts in Chiltington".

The property is a delightful plaster, timber and tile house circa 1530. It is an almost perfect late mediaeval timber-framed building, in a style transitional between that of earlier mediaeval and later developments. It consists of an open hall, four bays, with a smoke hood, and a brick chimney inserted c.1600. Near the gate is a barn, which although not particularly imposing from the exterior, is nevertheless a magnificent building, more particularly inside, where the high original beams still survive. The barn is thought to be about a century older than the house, and it is a grade two listed building.

The present (1991) owner of Naldretts Farm, Jennie Sharpe, has had the house beautifully restored, and has managed to preserve the wattle and daub walls and the original timbers, even though some of them are very badly decayed. Some of the above information has been taken from papers relating to the house which are now in her possession, although they are all recent papers.

George was now styled 'Gentleman', which at the time was a definite title, lower only than that of 'Knight'. He was in fact 'Compounded for Knighthood', meaning that he was offered a 'compulsory' knighthood. The Stuart monarchs made a great deal of money from the sale of Honours, which were offered and accepted in large numbers. However George was unwilling to pay the price demanded (we do not know what it was), and found it less expensive to pay the fine for refusal of the Honour!

George lived at Naldrett House, Rudgwick, sometimes known as Naldrett Place. Dallaway in his book 'Sussex', speaking of Rudgwick, says: 'The principal estate, called Naldrett Place, continued through the course of many generations, in the opulent family of ancient yeomanry which gave name to it'. The house was pulled down at the end of the 18th century, but there is an account that it had a Dutch garden, with two fish-ponds and that there were 18 riding-horses.

Just four months after the death of his first wife, George married Anne Cheriman, a young widow, at West Chilington on 19th April 1632. This union was very important, because the line from his first wife died out over three generations, but the descendants of George and Anne survive to this day. Anne had eight children from 1633 to 1645, including John, baptised at Rudgwick on 2nd November 1642, from whom the Pentecosts of this book are descended.

We have seen above in George's mother's will that her bequests to him were of money which she had already loaned to him. He had earlier sold some of his property to her for the sum of £420.

George was a churchwarden at Rudgwick in 1637, and his name appears in a conveyance of property dated 11th January 1637, the property being bounded by lands belonging to George, called 'Marshalls', which had been in the family since at least the early 16th century.

In February 1642, in the reign of Charles I, George is recorded as having signed, together with 15 other members of his family, an oath swearing allegiance to the true Reformed Protestant Religion. This oath was initially sworn by all members of the House of Commons, and it was considered fitting that it should subsequently be administered to every male in the land aged 18 and above.

George died when he was only 42, and was buried at Rudgwick on 16th December 1648. His second wife, Anne Cheriman was buried at Rudgwick on 14th May 1670. George's will, which was dated 2nd September 1646, and proved on 5th May 1649, now follows.

I George Naldrett of Rudgweek in the County of Sussex yeoman of perfect health and memory thanks be to god do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following First I give and bequeath unto my eldest Son George Naldrett All that my capitall Messuage called Naldred House in Rudgweek aforesaid with all Barnes buildings Lands Tenements and whatsoever thereunto belonging comonly called Naldred Lands Also all that my Messuage two barnes and all Lands Tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging in Rudgweek aforesaid comonly called Hurst Lands And all those three Water Mills comonly called Wanford Mills situate in Rudgweek And all the tenements Lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging And all those my fiv acres of Lands more or lesse in Rudgweek aforesaid called Rascalls And all those my Lands in Billingshurst in the said County of Sussex called Naldrett Feilds and Mallam mead To have and to hold All and every the said severall Messuages Mills Lands Tenements and Hereditaments and premisses with their and every of their appurtenances

unto my said Sonne George Naldret for and during his natural life without impeachment of wast[e] and after his death Then to the use and behoof [benefit] of the first Sonne of the body of my said sonne George lawfully begotten And of the heires made of such first begotten sonne And for want of such issue to the second sonne of the body of my said sonne George lawfully begotten. And to the heires made of such second sonne And for want of such issue to the third fourth fift sixt and seventh sonnes of the body of my said sonne George lawfully begotten and to the heires made of such third fourth fift sixt and seventh sonnes as they shalbee in course of nature and prioritie of birth And for want of such issue Then to the use and behoof of my Sonne John Naldrett and the heires made of his body lawfully begotten And for want of such issue Then to the use and behoof of my sonne Ralph Naldred and the heires made of his body lawfully begotten And for want of such issue to the right heires of me the said George Naldrett for ever

Item I give unto my said sonne John Naldrett All that my message Lands and Tenements called Violetts and Violetts Hill in the p'ish of Slynfold in the County of Sussex And all those his Mother's Lands in West Chiltonington in the County of Sussex comonly called Place lands alias Wandlings with all houses barnes buildings and appurtenances to the same belonging To have and to hold the said Tenements called Violetts and Place Lands alias Wandlings with their appurtenances unto my said sonne John Naldrett and the heires made of his body lawfully begotten, And for want of such issue Then to my said sonne Ralph Naldrett and the heires made of his body lawfully (begotten) And for want of such issue to the right heires of me the said George Naldrett for ever

Item I will and bequeath unto my said sonne Ralph Naldrett All those my messuages Lands Tenements hereditaments barns buildings and appurtenances comonly called Dukes Godlies Gingburies and Cowsins scituat in the severall parishes of Rudgweek aforesaid, And of Ewhurst in the County of Surrey To have and to hold unto my said sonne Ralph Naldred and the heires made of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such issue Then to the use and behoof of my said sonne John Naldred, and the heires made of his body lawfully begotten And for want of such issue to the right heires of me the said George Naldred for ever

Item I give unto my five Daughters Joane Mary Martha Susan and Ann Naldred to every of them the sume of two hundred pounds a peece of lawfull money of England to bee paid unto them by my Executors as they shall severally acomplish their severall ages of one and twentie yeares or dayes of marriage which shall first happen, and if any of them shall happen to die before their intermarriage or said day of payment That then the said Legacie of two hundred pounds of her or them deceased to be equally devided and paid unto such my daughter or daughters as shall survive her or their sister or sisters deceased at her or their said day or dayes of marriage or age or ages of one and twentie yeares, which shall first happen

Item I give to my wellbeloved wife Ann Naldrett the sum of one hundred pounds to bee paid her within three yeares after my decease To the end she may no way raise or prosecute any suites against my said sonne George for the Lands devised to him

Item I give to my said sonne George Naldrett my best feather bed with the bedstede and all the furniture thereunto belonging being in my parlor chamber with all standing tables benches, the fornace one paire of iron rackes to [two] of my best spitts

Item I give to the poore of the p'ish of Rudgweek aforesaid fourtie shillings to be distributed amongst them on my funerall day

And whereas my debts are a great care unto me As also the well education of my said children in the yeare of the Lord It is my will and meaninge that my said sonne George Naldrett shall only receive out of my said Lands called Naldretts house and Lands untill his age of one and twentie yeares the sume of twentie poundes a yeare only and not more to bee paid him quarterly and for non payment whereof it shall and may be Iawfull for him to distraine [seize] and after his said age of one and twentie yeares Then all and every the premises aforesaid to bee to him for life And after his decease to his heires made as aforesaid I therefore desire my Executors to receive all the rents of all my Lands and Tenements aforesaid untill my said sonne George shall accomplish his age of one and twentie yeares for the better payment of my debts and raiseing the said legacies unto my daughters And what shallbee then wanting in my stock or household stuff at my decease for the payment of my debts and raiseing of the said Legacies It is my will and I doe hereby desire and give power to my Executors and to the survivors of them, And to the heires executors and administrators of such of my executors as shall last survive to sell such and soe many trees woods and timber in of and from my said Lands called Naldrett house and Lands before devised to my said sonne George as often as needs shall require and my said daughters bee unpaid her or their said Legacie or Legacies of two hundred pounds a peece provided always that if my said sonne George Naldrett shall at any time before any of his said sisters legacies aforesaid shall become due or payable sufficiently secure unto my Executors or the survivor of them or the heires Executors or administrators of my late surviving Executor such legacie or Legacies to bee paid unto her or them in manner and forme aforesaid That then my Executors the Survivor of them ar any other hereby intrussted by me shall not have power to sell any such trees woods or underwood as aforesaid unless for soe much money of my said daughter or daughters portions as shall become due and bee unsecured by my said sonne George And it is alsoe my will that my Executors and the Survivor of them and the heire executor or Administrator of such surviving Executor shall have and receive the rents and proffitts of my said Water Mills and premisses called Wanford Mills for and during the tearme of tenn yeares next ensuing after my decease And the rents and proffitts of my said other Lands before devised to my said sonnes John Ralph for the better education of my younger children anything before devised to my said sonne George John and Ralph of the said mills and other Lands notwithstanding And I desire my said executors and such other who shall or may intrusted by this my will to give a inst and true account to the end that what shall or may appeare to bee undisposed of in their hands may bee equally divided amongst my said younger children And I require and charge my said children to love and be assistant to each other And that as well my said sonne George as my said other sonnes John and Ralph in case my said sonne George Naldrett should dye without issue made and my said Lands thereby come to my said other sonnes John and Ralph Naldrett That they and every of them suffer this my will to bee in all things duely performed according to my true meaneing without their lett suit or trouble And I hereby institute my said wellbeloved wife Anne Naldrett my loving brother

Ralph Naldrett my loveing cousins John Constable of Stone street Cawsey, Richard Cheale of Sompting, and my Cozine Richard Napper of Hices the Executors of this my will intreating them to take this charge and care of Executors uppon them for the good of the said children in their religious education and the better payment of all my debts And I give to each of them twentie shillings above all charges to buy each of them a ring to weare for my remembrance And I give to every of my servants that shalbee dwelling with me at the time of my decease five shillings a yeare And now I desire Allmighty god to fitt and prepare me for my death, and for a better life which I expect only through the meritts of Jesus Christ my Redeemer. And I desire my body to be buried in Rudgweeke by my Ancestors. And I doe hereby revoke all former wills And in witness that this is my last will I have subscribed the same under my hand and seale, and doe hereby publish the same soe to bee the same conteyneing two sides and a half sealed with my seal at the labell and subscribed with my hand to the said two sides and a half this eight and twentieth day of September in the five and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England, Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the faith etc Anno Domini 1646 George Naldrett

Witnesses Thomas Henshaw Ralph Wright

Probate:

Proved at London before the venerable and distinguished man Sir Nathaniel Brent kt., LLD., legally constituted Master or Keeper of the Prerogative, on 5th May 1649, by the oath of Ann Naldrett, widow of the said deceased and executrix named in this will to whom was committed the administration of all and singular the property, rights and credits of the said deceased, being sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer them (by virtue of the commission).

The provisions of the will had not been fully carried out 46 years later, for a further note was written on the will in 1695:

1st July 1695 a commission was issued to Susan Winton alias Naldrett, widow, natural and lawful daughter, and nearest relative and legatee named in the will of George Naldrett died, having etc. to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor and effect of the will of the same deceased which are still standing unadministered by Ann Naldrett widow and one of the executors; to well etc [and faithfully administer them] by virtue of the Commission. Being sworn that Ralph Naldrett, John Constable and Richard Cheale three of the executors named in the said will have renounced [their executorship] and also that Richard Napper, the other executor died before the probate.



Violets Farm, Slinfold

The farm house lies at the end of a private road off the road which leads from the A29 down to Dedisham Manor. This is certainly the most picturesque of all the Naldrett properties. There is a long sweeping driveway leading to the house, lined in spring with hundreds of daffodils. At one side of the very wide and beautiful front garden, there is a duck pond, and near the centre of the large lawn is a well.

The present owners, Mr and Mrs H. Lines, have occupied the house for the past thirty years. At the time of their purchase, it was in a derelict condition, with large holes in the roof, and there were no electricity and gas services. They had to have the house strengthened by inserting foundations beneath parts of it, and have completed a wonderful restoration project.

There has been a farm house on the site since at least 1321, when one Henry Tregoz held "1 messuage and 40 acres of land and 7 acres of meadow which is called le Violette" [Even in those days they had trouble with French genders!]; Henry had to pay to the Lord of Dedisham Manor, an annual rent of two bows each worth three shillings, ten barbed arrows and two bolts, half paid at The Assumption and half at All Saints.

The house consists of a hall and cross-wing, forming an L-shape. There is no stylistic evidence to suggest when in the medieval period the hall was constructed. On the north side of the hall are two late 16th or early 17th century massive chimney stacks, possibly built at different times. The cross-wing appears to be contemporary with the chimney stacks.

We do not know when the property came into Naldrett hands, but certainly it belonged to George Naldrett, 1606 - 1648. Neither do we know for certain when it left Naldrett hands, but this was presumably when all the Naldrett estates were lost in 1785. George Naldrett, 1676 - 1721, certainly owned it in 1686; it is possible that George Naldrett, 1700 - 1776 owned the property until about 1730, for until then, he and his family lived at Slinfold.

NALDRETT, John (1642 - 1676; Chart NA); **WELLAR, Mary** (Chart NA)

Seventh child and second son of George Naldrett (d 1648) and Anne Cheriman. Baptised at Rudgwick on 2nd November 1642.

By his father's will, John inherited 'Violets' at Slinfold, and his mother's lands in West Chiltington now known as Naldretts Farm.

John married Mary Wellar at Capel, Surrey, on 19th May 1674, and their only child George, was baptised there on 21st January in 1675/6. It seems that Mary may have died in childbirth or very soon afterwards, for John then appears to have married an Elizabeth whose surname is not known; (Elizabeth died in 1703).

John died a few months after his marriage to Elizabeth, and was buried at Slinfold on 24th October 1676, thus leaving his only son George parentless at the age of only nine months.

NALDRETT, George (1676 - 1721; Chart NA); **CHURCHER, Frances** (Chart NA)

Only child of John Naldrett (d 1676) and Mary Wellar. Gentleman of Violets Farm, Slinfold. Baptised at Capel, Surrey, on 21st January 1675/6.

George's father died when he was only nine months old, his mother having died during or shortly after his own birth. His step-mother Elizabeth Naldrett took care of him, but he was also under the wing of his father's half-brother George Naldrett of Rudgwick (born 1629).

One of the many interesting documents held in the Guildford Muniment Room, and dated 1686 (when George was only ten), refers to a 'right of way' being allowed to Elizabeth and young George. Not all the document is legible, but sufficient of it remains to enable the intention of the document to be understood:

'To all people to whome these p'sents shall come Richard Onslow of Clandon in the County of Surrey Esq' sendeth greetinge in our Lord God Everlastinge Know yee that the said Richard Onslow for & in considerac'on of the yearly rent herein mentioned & for other good causes and considerac'ons we here unto moveinge doe allow unto Elizabeth Naldrett of Slinfold in the County of Sussex wid' & unto George Naldrett her sonne for & duringe their naturall lives a sufficient way from the dwellinge howse of the said Elizabeth Naldrett through the Mannere Park into the Kings Highway as the same hath ... heretofore sett out by the said Richard Onslow to carry & recarry with waggons carts & on horses to & from the lands of the said Elizabeth Naldrett called "Violett" ... lyinge & being in the p'ish of Slinfold aforesaid in the said County of Sussex All .. of which shall grow ... the said lands called Violett aforesaid & likewise to bring in dressings for the ... and necessary from them the said Elizabeth Naldrett & George Naldrett ... shall ... the said lands ... lives of ... the said Elizabeth Naldrett George Naldrett her sonne & use ... the said Richard Onslow or any other p'son whatsoever ... nevertheless that they the said Elizabeth Naldrett & George Naldrett shall ... paid ... assignes Twoe Shillings & Sixe pence p' Ann' uppon the Feast Day of th' annunc'acion of our lady ... of to bee made & beggin uppon the Feast Day anunciation of the blessed Virgin, ... ensueing But if default ... out of the said yearly rent of Twoe shillings and sixe pence shall bee made uppon the Feast day above menc'oned for the payment

thereof Then this p'sent writinge & anything herein conteyned shall cease det'mine & bee frustrate & of none effect to all intents & ... soever And likewise that the said Elizabeth Naldrett & the said George her sonne shall bee at the charge of maintaininge the gate that is now placed at the lower end of the Violet hill goeing out into the Mannere Park ... whereof I the said Richard Onslow unto the p'sent writeinge my hand & seale have sett & the said Elizabeth Naldrett & George Naldrett have wrote set their hands & seales this Three & Twentieth Day of Aprill of the Second year of the reigne of our Sov'aigne Lord James the Second by the grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King defender of the faith &c Anno' Dm' 1686.'

The 'Mannere Park' was that of the ancient Manor of Dedisham, to the east of Violets. The fascinating thing about this is that even today there is no direct road to Violets from the 'King's highway' (the A29) except from the private road to Dedisham. The gate to the Manor Park (or rather its successor) still exists.

The Slinfold parish register records George's marriage on 1st September 1696:

'Naldrett, George of this Parish, Gent., and Churcher, Frances, daughter of Mr Thomas [Churcher] of Hill in this Parish, Gent., by vertue of a Lycense from Eccliastical Court of Chichester under the hand and seal of Doctor Thomas Briggs, Chancellor of Chichester, bearing date the last day of August, Anno Dom. 1696.'

The licence to marry was required because George had not reached the age of twenty-one.

When he had become twenty-one, a few months later, he decided to raise some capital, by selling to Thomas Mose of Ewhurst, one of his properties, namely twenty-one acres known as 'Dukes' in Ewhurst, Surrey, for £430. The agreement transferring the property is too tedious and repetitious to set out in detail, and would occupy a full two pages of this book, and so its contents are now summarised. The property consisted of several 'peeces or parcells of Arrable pasture or Meadowe and Wood Land', and had on it a 'Barne and Hovell'. The property was occupied by one James Knight, and certain rights of way existed across the land, which were to be preserved on sale of the property: firstly, one William Stedman, a tailor, continued to have 'a way or passage' for him and his servants 'with Horses Carts and Carriages to pass and repass when and as often as hee or they please'; and secondly 'a way and Liberty for Thomas Leere of Ewhurst', Blacksmith, and his servants to 'fetch water from the Dipping Pond'

George and Frances produced no less than thirteen children from 1697 to 1720, all being baptised at Slinfold, some with the full entries recorded as: 'Son of Mr George Naldrett of Violets and Frances his wife.' The first two children were daughters, and the third was a son, named George, after his father, as continued to be the usual custom with the eldest son. George was baptised on 16th October 1700, and it is from him that the Pentecosts are descended.

At some point, at least some of George and Frances' family moved, to Wisborough Green, probably to a property known as 'Westland'. [We do not know why they moved, but it may have been at the behest of the grandson (or of his father) of his father's half brother George Naldrett (born 1629); this grandson, also called George, and born in 1706/7 was the inheritor of the main Naldrett Estates, and lived at 'Naldrett Place' Rudgwick, and was to become High Sheriff of Sussex in 1746; this grandson's father (also George!) had died in 1718, when his son was only eleven].

Although a record of George's burial has not been found, an account exists which says that he died in 1721 as Wisborough green. George's widow, Frances died in 1739, and was buried at Slinfold on 15th December.



'Westland' was a small plain tile-hung farmhouse, since greatly enlarged with two substantial extensions. It stands beside the road from Wisborough Green to Fittleworth, known as Bedham Lane, in some of the loveliest countryside in Sussex. The farm was a Copyhold property of seventeen acres, part of the Rudgwick Estate held by 'High Sheriff' George and his father before him.

NALDRETT, George (1700 - 1776; Chart NA); **BURCHALL, Phyllis** (Chart NA)

Eldest son of George (d c.1721) and Frances Churcher. Baptised at Slinfold on 16th October 1700, the third of thirteen children.

George was a farmer, and he married Phyllis Burchall at Rudgwick on 14th February 1726. (One of his younger brothers, Richard, married Phyllis' sister Ann Burchall in 1732).

George and Phyllis had nine children, the first two, both girls, were baptised at Slinfold, Sussex; most of the remainder were baptised at Wisborough Green, Sussex, suggesting that the family moved there from Slinfold around 1730. The first of the children baptised at Wisborough Green was the eldest son, George, on 5th April 1731, and it was his marriage which was in due course to give rise to the Pentecost family, just over a hundred years later.

George, unlike his great half-uncle George's grandson, also named George ('High Sheriff' George), born six years after himself, was not a wealthy man. He had

inherited little of the family's possessions, and having nine children of his own had further impoverished him. He died late in 1776, being buried at Wisborough Green on 3rd December, having made his will seven months earlier:

"In the name of God Amen I George Naldrett of Wisborough green in the County of Sussex, Farmer, being of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding thanks be to God, therefore Do make and Declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) I give and bequeath unto my Two Sons George Naldrett and William Naldrett One Shilling each, And the like sum unto my ... Daughters Sarah Jude and Mary to be paid unto them Within One Month after my decease. Also I give and bequeath unto my dear and loving Wife Phyllis Naldrett the use and usage of all my household goods of What nature or kind soever for and during the term of her natural life and from and after her decease I give and bequeath the same unto my Son John Naldrett his Executors and Assignes. Also I give and bequeath unto John Humphrey (Who I brought up from his infancy And who now lives with me as my Servant for his good and faithful services done) the sum of Eight Pounds and Eight Shillings to be paid unto him by my Executor herein afternamed Within Six Kalendar months next after my decease. All the rest residue and remainder of my personal Estate not herein before by me given and disposed of (after my debts, Legacies and funeral expenses are all thereout first paid and Satisfied) I give and bequeath unto my said dear and loving Wife Phyllis Naldrett whom I also make Constitute and appoint full and Sole Executrix of this my Will. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the Thirteenth Day of May In the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six. George Naldrett his mark. Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said George Naldrett the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who have Subscribed as Witnesses therof. Thomas Burges John Chesmar"

Probate was not granted until 26th January 1779 - more than two years after George's death - and then not to his wife, Phyllis, who had died in the meantime, nor to his eldest son George, but to John, the second son. John had married Esther Robinson in 1761 and was to stay at 'Westland' for the rest of his life. In fact he and John Humphrey came out of this rather well, which is more than can be said for the others, for even George had a mere shilling. George may not have got on with his father, but more likely, his father believed that he would have good inheritance prospects upon the death of 'High Sheriff' George, who was an only child, had not married, and had no children, and who in fact died intestate twenty-one months after George (d 1776), in 1778.

NALDRETT, George (1731 - 1803; Chart NA); **SCUTT, Elizabeth** (Chart NA)

Eldest son of George Naldrett (d 1776) and Phyllis Burchall; one of nine children. Baptised at Wisborough Green on 5th April 1731.

George married Elizabeth Scutt at West Chiltington, Sussex, on 12th August 1760, at which time he was described as a labourer. Elizabeth was a daughter of John Scutt and Mary, who had four children, baptised at West Chiltington from 1735 to 1744. Elizabeth was baptised at West Chiltington on 7th March 1739. George and Elizabeth had ten children, baptised at various Sussex parishes, from 1760 to 1783, and may have lived until 1778 at Naldrett's Farm, in West Chiltington.

Following his father's death in 1776, and that of his third half-cousin 'High Sheriff' George in 1778, George undoubtedly felt himself to be heir to the Naldrett Rudgwick Estates, since he was the senior male of his line, descending from John Naldrett his great-grandfather who was born in 1642. Although only a third half-cousin to 'High Sheriff' George, they had lived closely together, and knew each other very well.

So firmly was he convinced of his right, that he, now aged 47, moved to Rudgwick, but from this time on, grave conflicts arose between him and one Ann Riggs.

Who was Ann Riggs, neé Bettesworth? She was the only child of Peter Bettesworth V, who she claimed was born in 1687, the only surviving child of Elizabeth Naldrett and Peter Bettesworth IV, who married in 1681. Elizabeth Naldrett was in 1679 the only surviving sibling of 'High Sheriff' George's father, all her brothers and sisters having died childless by 1679, apart from 'High Sheriff' George's father.

Ann Riggs therefore claimed the Rudgwick Estates; however, George contested her claim, saying that there was no proof that her father Peter Bettesworth V was the son of Elizabeth Naldrett, since no baptism register could be produced to prove his claimed birth in 1687; the register for Alfold, where the family lived, did show that Elizabeth Naldrett had had two stillborn children in 1684 and 1688, but there was no mention of a son Peter.

A case heard in the King's Bench Division in the Lenten Assizes of 1779, resulted in the jury declaring that George should inherit the estates mentioned in 'High Sheriff' George's grandfather's will, and that Ann Riggs should inherit all the other estates not mentioned in that will.

A further case in the summer of 1779 went against George.

On 2nd June 1781, George filed a Bill of Complaint in the Chancery Court, saying amongst other things that his father 'was repeatedly acknowledged' by 'High Sheriff' George during his lifetime to be his 'nearest relation and heir at law' and that 'High Sheriff' George had employed a lawyer, William Johnson to manage his business for him, and that there was great intimacy between them; 'High Sheriff' George had declared to many, including Johnson, that George (born 1731) was heir.

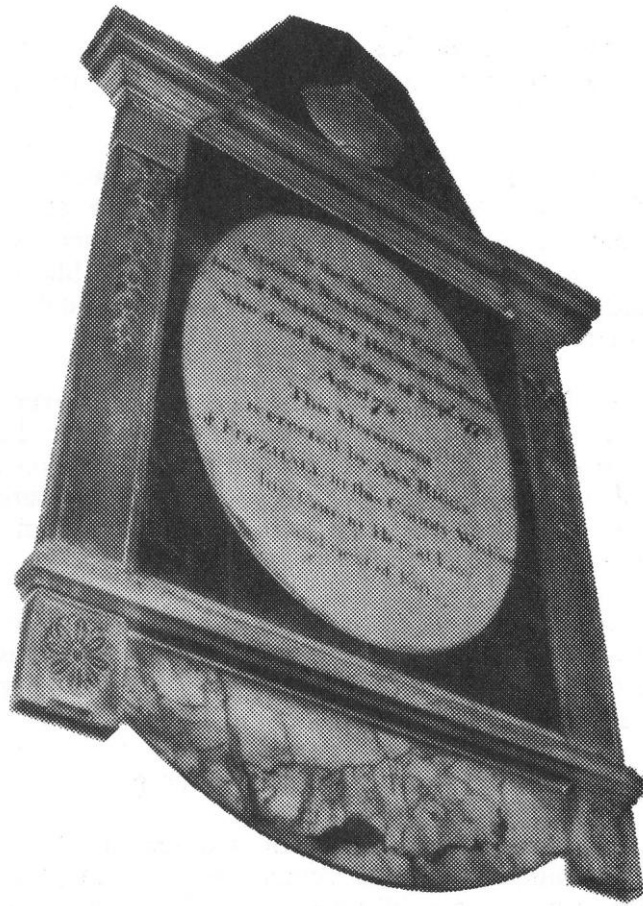
George (born 1731) claimed that Johnson confederated with Ann Riggs, 'a woman of very indigent circumstances' for her to become the heir. In 1778 Johnson had told George that Ann Riggs was the heir. Thus the lawyer had changed sides.

In May 1782, Ann Riggs and William Johnson were granted a further six weeks to answer George's 1781 Bill of Complaint. In June 1782 George swore an affidavit that he was worth less than £5, and he was assigned a Counsel, William Jewell, apparently in an early form of Legal Aid for the poor.

In April 1784, George was asked to 'speed his cause to a hearing' lest it go by default. The Master of the Rolls' report dated 7th May 1785 shows that the case was lost by default. So George was excluded from pursuing his case, perhaps by the idleness of his counsel, and his own poverty.

George stayed on at Rudgwick, at least for a time. Records show that in 1786 and 1787 he grew eight acres of flax, yielding 131 stone 2 lbs, at Hurstlands Farm, a short distance across the fields south of Naldretts. It would seem that some kind of subsidy was being

paid at that time for the cultivation of flax and hemp. We can only assume that Ann Riggs had given George the tenancy of Hurstlands.



The plaque in Rudgwick Church, erected by Ann Riggs, possibly to reinforce her claim to the Naldrett Estates.

It says: To the Memory of George Naldrett Esquire, late of Naldrett House in this Parish, who died the 19th day of Sept 1776, Aged 72. This Monument is erected by Ann Riggs of Fitzhall in this County, Widow, his Cousin, Heir at Law and next of Kin.

Ann Riggs died in 1793, and having no children, bequeathed all her possessions to her half-brother James Piggott, and then to his son James, who promptly pulled down Naldrett House in Rudgwick, and built a plain but substantial farmhouse on the same site. This still stands today, having been extensively modernised and extended to the rear, and is believed to have been sold in 1983, for in excess of £400,000, including the value of 119 acres of land which were sold separately. [The late] Christopher Martin-Jenkins, the Daily Telegraph cricket correspondent and cricket commentator, today [1991] owns the house; he reports that unfortunately the old deeds of the house have not survived, and that the present ones go back only a few years. The author is grateful for his permission to reproduce the photograph below.



Naldrett House, Bucks Green, near Rudgwick

George died at Wisborough Green in 1803, probably an embittered old man. He is thought to have spent his last years with his brother John, at 'Westland' in Wisborough Green, for some of the papers relating to the legal suits came from that house, and were passed down into the hands of some present day members of the Naldrett family.

During all the difficulties of the law suits, George's wife Elizabeth neé Scutt, was struggling to raise their ten children. Their sixth child, and third son John, was born in 1772 at Fittleworth, and he was the grandfather of Alfred Pentecost. We do not know when Elizabeth died.

NALDRETT, John (1772 - 1845; Chart NA); **HEYLER, Sarah** (Charts NA & HA1)

John was the sixth child and third son of George Naldrett (d 1803) and Elizabeth Scutt. He was baptised at Fittleworth, Sussex, on 26th August 1772. He was the grandfather of Alfred Pentecost.

We are now well into the time in the history of the Naldretts when the family wealth had gone. The Naldretts were now reduced to working mostly as labourers, and owned little or no land.

John's eldest brother George died at the age of thirteen, but John had another elder brother, James, two years his senior, and we find both of them living in Pulborough, Sussex by 1793. They both married there, within eleven months of each other, John to Sarah Heyler, on 29th October 1793; she was baptised at Pulborough on 19th June 1771, and was the daughter of Hugh Hayler and Elizabeth Mitchel. The two Naldrett

families must have been very close, and between them they had seventeen children; Sarah Heyler had eleven of these, from 1794 to 1817.

Times were very hard, and the direst poverty was so widespread that a third of the population asked for Poor Relief in the period 1800 to 1812; grim 'Workhouses' were built every few miles to house the destitute and homeless. We know that John and Sarah were not homeless (they rented a house), but they suffered severe poverty, for in the Pulborough Vestry Minutes, there are many entries concerning John and his family.

The Vestry were effectively the governing body of the parish, and they appointed Overseers of the Poor, Constables and Surveyors of Highways; they were the forerunners of local government.

The entries in the Vestry minutes relate to several members of the Naldrett family, but mostly to John, and later to two of his sons, James and Charles. The entries referring to John, covering a period of about forty years, show his name in full, but in the extracts below, his name has been abbreviated to J.N.

17.1.1796 (Children 1) John Naldrett 3/- week

27.1.1791 J.N. 3/- weekly

10.9.1799 Undermentioned boys are put out for one year from Michaelmas next - Steven Green to J.N. 3/- per week

3.9.1800 J.N. midwife paid - refused

14.9.1800 J.N. wants relief - 3 children: Grant 6/2d

[By this time, John and Sarah's eldest child, Esther had died (in 1815), and they had three surviving children: James (4), Charles, (2), and William (7 weeks)].

2.10.1800 J.N. wants flour: 4 Galls. flour; money paid by

J. Symonds [A similar entry for his brother James appears on the same date].

16.11.1800 J.N. wants rent paid: Granted, E2.2.0

14.12.1800 J.N. hog fattening (have had 4 bushels) granted 2 bushels peas

15.02.1801 J.N. wants hog Fattening/3 children granted 4 bushels only

1.03.1801 J.N. paid shoes and breeches for boy - granted

29.03 1801 J.N. paid shoes granted

12.04.1801 J.N. wants 2 years rent 35/- paid - granted 17/6 towards rent

10.05.1801 J.N. wants 4 changes for children and weekly pay - granted 18d per week

27.09.1801 J.N. wants rent paid £2.13.0d. - granted 50s

17.10.1802 J.N. wants rent paid £3.10s. and weekly pay - granted 1/6d per week; granted £1.15s.0d.

- 2.01.1803 J.N. wants one years rent paid £3.10. - granted £3.10s.
and stop weekly pay
- 11.04.1803 J.N. wants 2 pairs shoes for boys and weekly pay put on -
granted one pair shoes
- 5.06.1803 J.N. wants weekly pay at 1/6d per week - granted 116d
per week
- 11.12.1803 J.N. each a change and each Roundfrock - refused
- 12.05.1804 J.N. wants pair shoes for boy and change for four - refused
- 14.10.1804 J.N. wants £4.4s. rent paid to Michaelmas and pair shoes for
self - granted £2.12s.
- 26.11.1805 J.N. wants hogfatting and more weekly pay - granted 3s per
week and 12s.
- 20.05.1806 J.N. will take the other girl of the parish will cloath her -
granted 2d. for cloath May 21st paid.
- 4.07.1806 J.N. wants present relief his daughter being come home ill
- granted 5/- paid
- 20.03.1807 J.N. wants hogfatting (4 children) - granted 10/-
- 7.12.1807 J.N. wants 20/- cloaths - granted 20/-
- 18.04.1808 J.N. wants 1/6 additional pay - refused
- 7.11.1808 J.N. wants more weekly pay - refused

Unfortunately the Vestry minute book covering the period 1808 to 1823 has not survived, and the record continues as follows.

- 10.04.1823 J.N. wants lost time made up, 3 days, has been to Brighton
after work - 6s.
- 7.04.1825 J.N. wants clothes for boy at Mr. Smith's Hunston -
Granted 15/-
- 22.09.1825 J.N. wants clothes for son hired at Mr. Mutton's for a year -
granted 15/-
- 14.05.1830 J.N. wants poor rate allowed for house - granted him for
house.
- 8.12.1830 J.N. will take above two men (his 21-year-old son Jesse and
William Holden, his daughter Hannah's husband) for three
months if the parish will employ him when he is out of work.
[No decision recorded].
- 22.11.1832 J.N. to be employed on road, same as others - granted as
others

16.09.1837 and 5.5.1838. J.N.'s name was included on a list of persons not able to pay the Poor Rate. In the 1837 entry, John is recorded as living in Nutbourn, Pulborough.

Before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834, relief was given to the able-bodied pauper in a variety of ways. Very often his rent was paid for him, and the house in which he lived was always exempted from poor-rates. Very seldom was relief in kind given in the way of food or clothing. (Clearly John did rather well from this point of view, as can be seen from some of the above entries, for he did receive some relief in kind; perhaps this was because of his degree of poverty). Often relief was given in money, sometimes for odd days missed from private employment, but more frequently to save the parish from having to find work for the increasing numbers of able-bodied poor. Augmentation of starvation wages by relief from the rates was very prevalent; the amount of relief given varied considerably, but was regulated by the number of people in the family, and consequently encouraged early and improvident marriage.

There are no entries after 1837 referring to any of the Naldrett family, apart from one on 26.2.1852, which referring to the sixth of John's sons, says:

'Jesse Naldrett nominated to serve office of parish constable for ensuing year'.

John died, aged 72, of 'palsy' on 13th March 1845, when he was described as a labourer. His son Edward was present at the death, in Pulborough, where the burial took place.

Six years later, we see the 1851 census return, recording John's widow Sarah, then aged 79, living with her son Edward and his family; Sarah was described as 'Pauper. Agricultural labourer', so it seems that she was still working when she could; there were many tasks around the local farms where even elderly women could earn a little money - even a pittance of a few pence was better than nothing. Edward, with whom she was then living, was to become Alfred Pentecost's father, nine years later. Ten years later on, now aged 89, Sarah was living at 14 Cotehurst, Pulborough, and still described as an agricultural labourer! She died at the age of 93 years and 11 months, and was buried at Pulborough on 10th February 1865. She was evidently a tough and industrious woman, who lived through very hard times - poverty was still widespread and life was still very difficult for the poor at the time when she was left a widow in 1845.

Two of John and Sarah's children emigrated to the U.S.A: their eldest son James sailed for New York in 1832, somehow managing to pay the fare for himself and his family, rather than seeking an assisted passage; Clement, John and Sarah's seventh child emigrated in 1849; and their son Charles' son Alfred went later, to Michigan in 1872. The descendants of these people survive to this day in the U.S.A.

NALDRETT, Edward (1812-1891; Charts NA, PE1); **DENYER Harriett**
(Charts NA, DE1 & PE1)

Father of Alfred Pentecost, and son of John Naldrett (d 1845) and Sarah Heyler. Baptised on 22nd April 1812 at Pulborough.

Edward's first wife was Emily Parker, whom he married at Pulborough on 1st May 1834, and by whom he had three children. The family was very poor, for in the Pulborough Vestry Minutes, we see the following records:

4.06.1835 Edward Naldrett (aged 23): for work lost, 10 days - refused.

22.10.1836 Edward Naldrett [shown on the list of occupiers considered incapable of paying the Poor Rate].

Likewise he appears on similar lists, with other members of the family, on 6th May 1837, and 5th May 1838; the 1837 entry shows him living at Nutbourn, Pulborough.

His wife Emily died on 9th November 1846, aged 31, leaving Edward with Harriett (aged 11), Eliza (10) and Charles (8). It is quite probable that Edward's mother Sarah helped him for a year or so with the children, for she was very close to them; indeed her grandson Charles said of her later that she was 'a very dear old lady'.

A year and a half after Emily's death, Edward married Mary Slater at Pulborough, on 21st June 1848, but she died in 1852, having had no children.

At some point following his second wife's death, we do not know how soon afterwards, he took as his housekeeper a poor widow, six years his junior, named Harriett Pentecost, nee Denyer. She was the daughter of James Denyer and Sarah Myam, and was born in Pulborough on 11th September 1818; her father had died when she was only three years old. Her first marriage was to William Pennicott, (also known as Penticott and Pentecost) on 26th December 1836, in Pulborough.

Harriett and William had five children from 1838 to 1845. In the 1841 Pulborough census (ref. HO 107 F30 PS), we see William as an agricultural labourer living in Lower Street with Harriett and their first three children: Elizabeth (4), James (2) and George (6 months). William died of 'brainular disease' in 1846, leaving Harriett a 28-year-old widow with a family of five to bring up. The usual course of survival for a woman in such a difficult position was to find a man to support her and her family, preferably another husband. Whilst she at first failed to find another spouse, we think that she did get support, but from whom in the first instance, we do not know for sure.

The 1851 census (ref HO 107 1650 F96 P5) shows Harriett, a widow and a pauper, having moved to Willment(?) Street, living now with six children: Elizabeth, James and George, (as in 1841), and Anne (8), Jane (5) and Charles (2); George and Anne are shown as scholars, although schooling did not much good, at least for George, because he was unable to sign his name in 1893. (George married Elizabeth Eames at Pulborough in 1862, and they had a family). On the other hand Ann could write - her signature appears in her grandfather James Denyer's bible. Charles was probably born in 1848, but who the father was, we do not know.

In 1854 Harriett had a daughter Catherine Netley Pentecost, and again we do not know the father, although we may presume that his surname was Netley. (There were many Netleys in Pulborough; in fact, James Denyer's bible records the death of a Luke Netley, whom we believe to have been Harriett's step-father). Catherine died on 5th October 1864.

It was probably at some point after 1854, that the widow Harriett Pentecost and the widower Edward Naldrett decided to live together; by this time, Edward's children by his first marriage had all left school, and perhaps had secured employment; Harriett however, still had young children to care for. It appears that they lived as man and wife, although they did not at first marry. Perhaps after two tragic deaths of his previous wives, Edward was reluctant to marry for a third time.

Harriett and Edward were living in 1861 (census ref. RG 9 612 F38 P12) in Nutbourne Street, Pulborough; Edward is shown as head of the household, aged 49, an agricultural labourer. Harriett is shown as the housekeeper, and living with them were her children: Charles (12, agricultural labourer), Catherine (7), Ellen (4) and Alfred (1). It seems likely that Ellen was Edward Naldrett's child, and we know from Alfred's marriage certificate and from verbal family history about him, that he was Edward's son, even though his birth certificate names only his mother.

On 27th December 1861, Edward and Harriett had another child, Emily; possibly Edward named her after his first wife; sadly Emily died ten weeks later.

In 1863 Edward and Harriett at last decided to get married, he for the third time, and she for the second. They wed on 21st June 1863, after banns, at the parish church in Wiggonholt, Sussex, where they lived thereafter, although they had no more children, Harriett by then being 44 years old. A witness at the wedding was Charles Naldrett, probably Edward's son, although it may have been his brother. The 1871 census for Wiggonholt (ref. RG 10 1104 F121 P9) shows Edward and Harriett living at Banks Cottage, with two children: Ellen (13) and Alfred (11, scholar).

By 1881, Alfred had left home, and we find Edward and Harriett living at Wiggonholt Bank, in or just off Pulborough Road in Wiggonholt (ref. RG 11 1113 F121 P9), with their daughter Ellen, who was then 23, unmarried, and working as a seamstress.

As for occupations, Edward was an agricultural labourer in 1861, 1871 and 1881, and at the time of his death, ten years later, he was described as a farm stockman. He was unable to write his name.

(The loss of the Naldrett estates to Ann Riggs in 1785 was not forgotten by the Naldretts; this included Edward and his brother Jesse (three years older), even though the loss occurred before they were born. We know this because Elizabeth Balne, neé Naldrett, daughter of Edward's eldest son Charles, by his first marriage, wrote to a relative of hers in 1948, recollecting listening with fascination to her grandfather Edward and his brother Jesse discussing for hours the rights and wrongs of the Naldrett-Riggs lawsuits. In 1888 or 1889, Elizabeth Balne's father met Edward James Naldrett, who later became a King's Counsel, and was a descendant of a brother of Richard Naldrett, (who died in 1596); this lawyer tried to persuade Charles to re-open the lawsuit, in spite of the fact that there were by then, it is said, about 400 descendants to share in any possible successful outcome; Charles was not very strong however, and his children managed to dissuade him from becoming involved).

Edward died, aged 79, from senile decay, on 18th June 1891 at Marehill, Pulborough. Present at the death was his step-daughter, Elizabeth Pentecost, who was the eldest daughter of William Pentecost and Harriett; she registered Edward's death on 19th June. Harriett lived for a further two years, and died from a strangulated hernia, in Wiggonholt, on 16th March 1893, aged 74; death was registered on the same day, by her son George, who was present at her death. It would appear that she lived a very difficult and hard life.

PART 2

ALFRED PENTECOST (1860-1949), HIS WIFE & THEIR CHILDREN



Glenhaven House, Borehamwood – The Pentecosts' family home
A view showing the side and rear, before the addition of the conservatory at the front.



Glenhaven House. Front elevation, taken about 1906, showing some members of the family

We think that the figure on the left of the bottom photograph (on the previous page) is that of Alfred's son Herbert. We are unsure of the identities of the next five figures, although they are probably some of Herbert's brothers and sisters. The woman standing on the far right is thought to be Alfred's wife Fanny, holding the hand of her youngest daughter Gertrude.

Glenhaven House was a fairly large 18th century building, with several acres of land. It had a games room accommodating a full sized billiard table. In one of the cupboards of the house, was a secret stairway down to the basement, which had an underground passage with connections to two other large houses some distance away; this passage was evidently constructed for the escape of priests, and was destroyed and sealed up when the railway cutting was made. The tunnel was used for a time to grow mushrooms in.

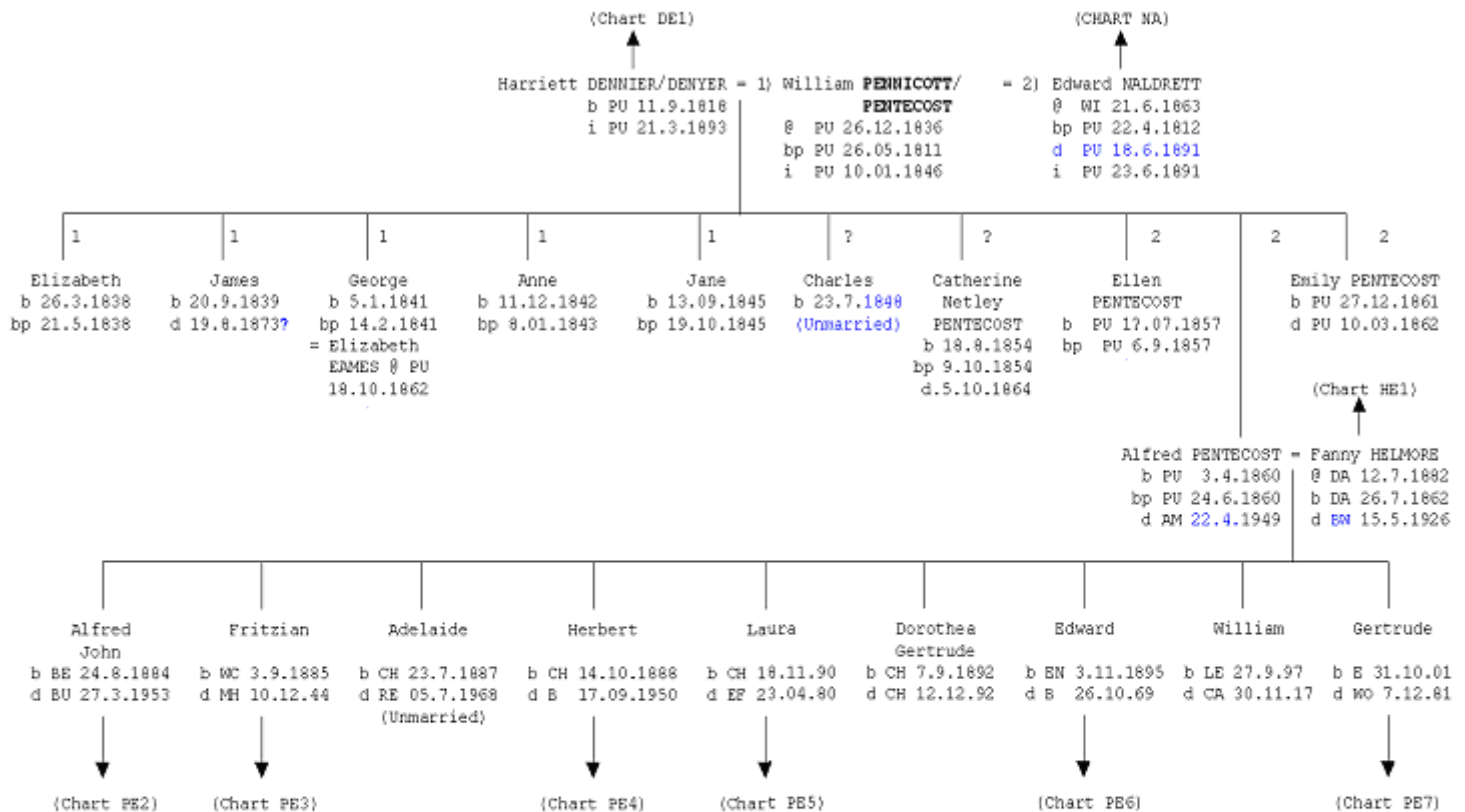
The house no longer exists, and on the site now stands Borehamwood Post Office; the house has been commemorated, in that a nearby road has been named Glenhaven Avenue.



The family greengrocer's and flower shop, at 6 Station Parade Borehamwood, run by Alfred Pentecost's son Alfred John, known as Jack.

Picture taken in the 1930s, showing Jack's daughter Joyce.

**The Families of Harriett Denyer with William Pentecost & Edward Naldrett
and the Family of Alfred Pentecost & Fanny Helmore**



KEY: b = born, bp = baptised, d = died, i = interred

AM = Amersham	CA = Cambrai, France	EN = Enfield	WC = Waltham Cross
B = Barnet	CH = Cheshunt	LE = Leytonstone	WI = Wiggonholt
BE = Beckenham	DA = Dawlish	MH = Middlesex Hospital	WO = Wool, Dorset
BU = Buntingford	E = Edgewarebury	PU = Fulborough	
BW = Borehamwood	EF = East Finchley	RE = Reading	

CHART PE1 26.9.91

PENTECOST, Alfred (1860-1949). (Charts NA & PE1)

The notes on Alfred's parents appear in Part 1 on pages 39 and 40.

It is perhaps appropriate just to mention Alfred's mother's first husband, William Pennicott, also known as Penticott and Pentecost, even though some notes about him appear on page 39, for it is from William that we get our family surname, even though we are not genetically related to him at all.

We have the surname Pentecost in the family because we are descended from his widow, Harriett Pentecost, née Denyer; and her second husband Edward Naldrett, who married after the birth of their son Alfred Pentecost.



The only picture we have of Alfred Pentecost,
taken at his retirement home at Chalfont St Giles.

Alfred was born on Wednesday, 3rd April 1860, at Nutbourne, Pulborough, Sussex. Although his mother did not name the father when she registered his birth on Thursday 9th May, we know from verbal family history that he was Edward Naldrett's son. He was brought up as Alfred Naldrett, and gave Edward Naldrett as his father's name on his marriage certificate. He was forced to use the name Pentecost, the name on his birth certificate, when at the age of about 14, he had to prove his identity in seeking employment.

Our first record of him is as a child, just one year old, living in Nutbourne Street, Pulborough, on 7th April 1861, the date of the census. He lived with his parents, (then widow and widower), his sister Ellen (4), his half-sister Catherine (7) and his half-brother Charles (12). His parents moved to Wiggonholt, near Pulborough, and married there on 21st June 1863.

Our next record of him is in the Wiggonholt 1871 census, (ref. RG 10 1104 F121 P9) where he is shown as Alfred Naldrett, (11, scholar) son of Edward and Harriett

Naldrett, living at Banks Cottage; also with them was his sister, Ellen (13). By 1881, he had left home, and we have no record of where he was. However, by the following year he had made his way to Dawlish in Devonshire, (we have no idea why he moved there), and met his future wife, Fanny Helmore. They were married at the parish church, Dawlish, on 12th July 1882, when she was 19, he was 22, and they were both Dawlish residents. (However there is no sign of Alfred being in Dawlish at the time of the 1881 census).

They had eight children from 1884 to 1901. Their first child, Alfred John, was born at Ivy Cottage, Lime Road, Beckenham, Kent, where the family lived in 1884. At this time, Alfred was working as a gardener and domestic servant. They then moved to Waltham Cross, Cheshunt, Herts., where their second child, Fritzian, was born in 1885, when Alfred was a gardener. He had the same occupation in 1888, when they were living at 91 Eleanor Road, Cheshunt. In 1890, when his daughter Laura was born, Alfred was working in Enfield, as a machinist at the Royal Small Arms Factory. It must have been at this time that he was a member of Enfield Town Band, in which he played the cornet. Their next child, Dorothea was born in 1892, but died at three months. By November 1895, they had moved to 21 Holmwood Road, Enfield Wash, where their son Edward was born; at this time Alfred was described as a gardener (not domestic)'. By September 1897 they had moved again, to 51 Park Road, Leytonstone, where William was born, and Alfred was then working as a gardener at a nursery.

The family then moved (we do not know the date) to Edgwarebury, in Edgware, where Alfred worked as a nursery foreman. It was here that their last child, Gertrude, was born, in 1901. The family finally settled down in Borehamwood, Herts., it is thought late in 1901. Here they set up or took over a market garden business at The Nurseries, growing tomatoes, cucumbers and flower seedlings.



Herbert Pentecost (left), my grandfather, with other nurserymen, possibly some of his brothers

The produce was conveyed to Covent Garden by horse and cart, shown above, leaving Borehamwood at three in the morning; a company of nursery wholesalers called Pouparts handled the produce, the tomatoes being known as 'Elstrees', and the cucumbers, which were always of high quality, and fetched a good price, were known as 'Elstree flats'. Alfred also raised pigs and chickens for slaughter. He and his wife leased Glenhaven House, Borehamwood, notes about which appear on page 42.

Alfred was not keen on modern inventions. He disliked cameras, and would never have his photograph taken; the only picture we have of him was taken surreptitiously by his granddaughter, Catherine Ross. He would not have electricity or gas services brought into Glenhaven House, and the house was heated by solid fuel, and lit by means of candles and oil lamps.

Alfred retired to live at Hazelwood, Albion Crescent, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, with his daughter Adelaide. He died at Amersham General Hospital, from heart failure caused by pneumonia, on Friday 22nd April 1949, aged 89. His death was registered on 26th April, by Adelaide. He was for some reason not buried in the double grave in Elstree, where his wife was interred 23 years earlier, but was cremated at Marylebone Crematorium.

HELMORE, Fanny (1862-1926) (Charts HE1 & PE1)

Wife of Alfred Pentecost. Daughter of Henry Helmore and Frances Salter. She was born at Park Row, Dawlish, Devon, on 26th July 1862, her birth being registered by her mother on 22nd August. Park Row no longer exists as such - it has been re-named Stockton Lane, but at the top end of Stockton Lane, at the junction with Stockton Road, there are three old cottages known as Park Row Cottages. Two other old cottages exist further down Stockton Lane with a gap in between, where may have stood another one or two cottages; we do not know for certain in which of these cottages Fanny lived. It is a quaint area with very narrow streets, in the old part of Dawlish.



The next record of her which we have, is in the 1881 Dawlish census (ref RG 11 2157 F7 P11), where she is shown living as a servant at 12 West Cliff Hill, aged 20 (incorrect); she was then a 'domestic'. In this house with her, were three other women: Eliza Brice, (head), a 50 year old widow, a house-keeper; a 71 year old annuitant, Lucy Brickdale; and another servant 'domestic', Sophia Edmunds.

Fanny did not stay long in this post, for she married Alfred Pentecost, in July 1882, when she was six days short of her 20th birthday (not 21 as given on her marriage certificate), and they were both Dawlish residents. Witnesses at the wedding were her brother, Henry, and Mary Jane Helmore, thought to be her sister. Fanny had eight children from 1884 to 1901, the eldest being born in Beckenham, Kent, six in Cheshunt, Herts, and the last one, Gertrude, in Edgware.

It is said that the Helmores had a large coffin-making business, but exactly which of them were involved in the business is not known - perhaps Fanny's brothers. However, it has to be said that the census records of the Helmore family members in the 19th century show none of them in this occupation. Fanny died at The Nurseries, Borehamwood, Herts, aged 63, from heart failure, on 15th May 1926.

The following are extracts from a press cutting in a local newspaper:

"We regret to announce the death, which occurred suddenly on Saturday at High Street, Borehamwood, at the age of 63, of Mrs Fanny Pentecost, wife of Mr A. Pentecost.

The late Mrs Pentecost had been a sufferer from heart trouble for the past four years, and although she was very cheerful and able to get about, a sudden collapse at any time was not unexpected. Twenty-two years ago, she came to Borehamwood from Edgware, with her husband, who developed his present nurseryman's business, in which he is now being assisted by his son, Mr E. Pentecost. His eldest son, Mr A.J. Pentecost, has a fruiterer's business a few doors from "The Nurseries."

Mrs Pentecost, who had a great many friends in Borehamwood and Elstree, was of a lovable disposition, and she will be much missed. She leaves a husband and a family of four sons and three daughters, most of whom are married.

The mourners were: Mr A. Pentecost (husband), Mr A.S. Pentecost, Borehamwood, Mr Fred Pentecost, Finchley (sons), Mr and Mrs H. Pentecost, Finchley, and Mr and Mrs E. Pentecost, Borehamwood (sons and daughters-in-law), Miss Adelaide Pentecost, Borehamwood, and Miss Gertrude Pentecost, Edmonton (daughters), Mr and Mrs L. Parker, Finchley (son-in-law and daughter), and Mr A. Taylor, Bushey (nephew).

Among the many beautiful flowers sent, was a wreath from the staff of Ideal Studios"

Her husband Alfred was present at her death, and it was he who registered it, on 16th May 1926. She was buried at St Nicholas' Church, Elstree churchyard on 19th May. The family has a copy of her funeral expenses invoice for £25, dated 1st June, from Nelson Staples, Undertakers of Borehamwood; they supplied a glass car (carriage?) and pair, and two mourning coaches and pairs and attendants; the invoice was for double fees for the church officials, because Fanny was a non-parishoner, and for some reason requested not to be buried at Borehamwood; her husband also paid for a double grave, although strangely he was (23 years later) cremated, and not interred with his wife.

That brings me to the end of these edited extracts from my 1991 book about the Pentecosts of Borehamwood